



**6 April 2023**

## **Minister Jay Ebanks visits OfReg offices to develop closer working relationship with the regulator.**

Hon. Jay Ebanks, Minister for Planning, Agriculture, Planning and Infrastructure, and Ministry representatives visited the offices of utilities regulator, OfReg, this week.

Minister Ebanks met with members of OfReg's Senior Management Team and Board to learn more about the issues and priorities facing the regulator in ensuring the long-term sustainability of Cayman's critical national utilities infrastructure and associated services delivered by operators and licensees.

During the visit, the Minister and Ministry representatives expressed his hope to find ways of working collaboratively with OfReg and identify areas of policy and legislation where updates could clarify and improve processes, increase innovation and create opportunities for future improvements to utilities infrastructure and services.

Minister Ebanks said, "I am pleased to have been able to meet the OfReg team and gain a greater understanding of what issues the regulator faces and how my Ministry can assist with policy and legislative changes to improve our national utilities infrastructure and services.

The utilities sector is critical to the long-term sustainability of our islands and my Ministry and I look forward to working with OfReg to ensure its' remit is clearly defined and empowered to deliver on it."

This initial meeting included discussing medium term priorities and strategic plans for the next two to three years across all utilities which OfReg regulate, including water, fuels, energy and telecommunications. These priorities include areas of critical utilities infrastructure such as the management and integration of renewable energy power generation. It is planned that regular meetings between OfReg and the Ministry will now be scheduled to progress these plans.

OfReg's Interim CEO, Mr. Peter Gough said he was looking forward to working with the Minister on a range of initiatives to improve OfReg's ability to deliver on its' remit as the regulator: "We are very positive about working even more closely with the Minister and welcome his support in identifying areas of policy and legislation where change can improve OfReg's ability to regulate the utilities sectors effectively and efficiently.

Working collaboratively creates the opportunity to deliver world class utilities infrastructure and associated services for the Cayman Islands and its' consumers."

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PO Box 10189  
Grand Cayman KY1-1102  
Cayman  
Islands  
Tel: (345) 946-4282

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## UTILITY REGULATION AND COMPETITION OFFICE



**IMAGE CAPTION:** Left to Right: Mr. Sonji Myles, Executive Director ICT, OfReg; Mr. Christen Suckoo, Chief Operating Officer, OfReg; Ms Andrea Fa'amoe Deputy Chief Officer, Hon. Jay Ebanks, Minister for Planning, Agriculture, Housing and Infrastructure; Mr. Eric Bush, Chief Officer, Ministry of Planning, Agriculture, Housing and Infrastructure; Mr. Peter Gough, Interim CEO, OfReg, Mr. Frank Balderamos, Acting Chairman, Board of Directors, OfReg.

### **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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**For more information please contact OfReg's Media Contact:**

Daniel Lee

Manager - Consumer Affairs & Public Education

[Daniel.Lee@ofreg.ky](mailto:Daniel.Lee@ofreg.ky)

Ph# 746 9614