

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How can I obtain a copy of the Contractor-General Annual Report?

A: Annual Reports from 2002 to date are available on this web site. Alternatively, you may request a copy or copies of the Annual Report in writing, via e-mail or by visiting the Office of the Contractor-General and making a request in person.

Q: Does the Contractor-General award public sector contracts?

A: No. The Contractor-General does not award any public sector contracts. Only agencies may award contracts. The Contractor-General is an independent Commission of Parliament responsible for monitoring and investigating the public sector procurement process including the award of government contracts, licences and permits to ensure that this process is fair, transparent, and equitable.

Q: If the Contractor-General requests information from an agency about any of the contracts that the agency has awarded, does this information have to be provided?

A: Yes. The Contractor-General Act of 1983 enclothes the Contractor-General with wide powers to access all books, records, documents, stores or other property belonging to the Government.



The Office of the Contractor-General

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The Office of the Contractor-General



*Committed to Equity,
Integrity and Transparency
in the procurement process*

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The Office of the Contractor-General

The Office of the Contractor-General (OCG) was established on approval of Parliament in 1986. The OCG is comprised of administrative, technical and secretarial staff that assist the Contractor-General in exercising his duties as mandated by the Contractor-General Act of October 1983.

The Office of the Contractor-General is the secretariat for two Commissions of Parliament.

The Commission of the Contractor-General

This independent, anti-corruption commission is the State's leading institution in ensuring that the government procurement process delivers value to the taxpayer.

The Commission of the Contractor-General is responsible for the monitoring and investigation of government contracts, licences and permits. The commission ensures that the procurement process is free from corruption and irregularity and is transparent, impartial and fair.

The OCG is a resource provider for the NCC.

The National Contracts Commission

The National Contracts Commission (NCC), was established in 1999 and is a separate independent commission. The NCC is responsible for the registration of contractors and contract endorsements for government procurement.

The primary objectives of this commission are the promotion of efficiency in the process of award and implementation of government contracts and ensuring transparency and equity in the awarding of such contracts.

The Mission of the OCG

The Mission of the Office of the Contractor General is to effectively discharge the requirements of the Contractor-General Act and, in so doing, to:

- Monitor and investigate the award and implementation of contracts, licences, permits, concessions and the divestment of government assets
- Improve and make fair and equitable the system of awarding contracts, licences, permits, concessions and the divestment of government assets
- Ensure that all public sector agencies give the widest possible opportunity to qualified persons to bid for contracts and divestments or to apply for licences and permits
- Create a positive image of the public procurement process by promoting integrity, professionalism, transparency, efficiency and, in so doing, to thereby engender public confidence.



Appointment of the Contractor-General

The Contractor-General is appointed by the Governor General, by instrument under the Broad Seal, after consultation with the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition. In the exercise of his statutory powers, a Contractor-General is not subject to the direction or control of any other person or authority. The current Contractor-General is Greg Christie, a Caribbean and British trained Attorney-at-Law.

Official Website of the Office of the Contractor-General

The OCG maintains an up-to-date website which may be found at www.ocg.gov.jm. Registered contractors, potential suppliers, as well as the general public will find the site helpful and easy to navigate as it provides valuable information on the OCG as well as Government procurement procedures.

From the Contractor-General Act:

Section 5 (1)

In the exercise of the powers conferred upon him by this Act, a Contractor-General shall not be subject to the direction or control of any other person or authority.

Section 23 (2)

Anything said or information supplied or any document or thing produced by any person for the purpose or in the course of any investigation by or proceedings before a Contractor-General under this Act, shall be absolutely privileged in the same manner as if the investigation or proceedings were proceedings in a court of law.

Section 28 (4)

A Contractor-General may, in the public interest, from time to time publish in such manner as he thinks fit, reports relating to such matters as are mentioned in subsection (2) and any case which is the subject of a special report under section 21, but no such report shall be published until after it has been laid pursuant to subsection (3).

The Contractor-General Act, in its entirety, may be found on the OCG website:

<http://www.ocg.gov.jm>

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