



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Appointments in Portfolio of Finance and Economics

His Excellency the Governor, Mr Bruce Dinwiddy CMG, has announced the appointment of four Caymanian civil servants to senior positions in the Portfolio of Finance and Economics.

Mrs Sonia McLaughlin has been appointed Deputy Financial Secretary and Chief Officer of the Portfolio. Ms Deborah Drummond has been appointed Deputy Financial Secretary and Deputy Chief Officer (Financial Services) and Mr. Peter Gough Deputy Financial Secretary and Deputy Chief Officer (Financial Management). These appointments will take effect on 1 November 2004, when Mr Kenneth Jefferson becomes Financial Secretary.

Mrs. McLaughlin is the present Accountant General and has been employed in the civil service for the past 33 ½ years. As Chief Officer of the Portfolio she will be responsible for the achievement of all aspects of the Portfolio's output delivery and ownership performance.

Ms Drummond is the current Assistant Financial Secretary and Mr Gough is the current Director of the Budget and Management Support Unit. Their appointment as Deputy Chief Officers reflects a new organizational structure for the Portfolio. Ms Drummond will be responsible for overseeing the Portfolio's support of the financial services sector and reflects the Government's commitment to sustaining the sector's success. Mr Gough will be responsible for coordinating the financial management activities of the government as a whole.

His Excellency has also announced that Mrs Debra Welcome has been appointed Acting Accountant General effective from 1 November, 2004. Mrs. Welcome has been employed in the civil service for the past 28 years – for the last seven years she has been the Deputy Accountant General.

The Governor said that "he was very pleased to be able to appoint officers of this calibre to these important civil service positions. The appointees are very experienced in their respective areas and will complement each other's expertise well. The country's financial interests will continue to be in safe hands under the leadership of the new Financial Secretary and the new Portfolio management team."(GIS)