

**Terms of Reference**  
**Telecommunications Commissioner**  
**Solomon Islands**

**2020**

<p><b>Position</b></p>	<p>Telecommunications Commissioner Solomon Islands.</p> <p>The Commissioner is the sole member of the Telecommunications Commission. The Commission is responsible for the performance of the functions and duties, and the exercise of the Commission’s statutory powers, in the economic and technical regulation of the Solomon Islands telecommunications sector.</p> <p>The Commissioner is not a public servant, and the Commission is not subject to the direction or control of any other person or authority, including government ministers.</p>
<p><b>Commencement of appointment and term</b></p>	<p>A permanent appointment to the position is expected to commence sometime after the first quarter of 2020.</p> <p>The appointment is likely to be for an initial three year term. The appointee can expect appointment for successive terms, subject to the statutory limit of ten years in total.</p>
<p><b>Procedure</b></p>	<p>The selection of the Commissioner is undertaken by a special purpose statutory committee, the Evaluation Committee. The three members currently holding office <i>ex officio</i>, are the Public Solicitor, the Governor of the Central Bank of Solomon Islands, and the Chair of the Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce &amp; Industry</p> <p>The appointment of the person selected by the Committee is made by the Minister of Communications &amp; Aviation, by notice in the Gazette. The Minister may only appoint a person recommended by the Committee.</p> <p>The terms of engagement agreed with the appointee constitute a contract between them and the state of Solomon Islands.</p>
<p><b>Role of the Commission</b></p>	<p>The Commission’s core functions are to regulate and facilitate the development of the telecommunications market in Solomon Islands, to manage the country’s radio-frequency resource, and to safeguard competition and the interests of consumers.</p>

	<p>The Commission is funded independently of parliamentary appropriations, through services licence fees paid to the Commission by the service providers.</p> <p>Matters likely to be current at the time that the new Commissioner takes office, include the access and pricing arrangements for a new submarine cable linking Solomon Islands to Sydney, proposals for the administration of country internet domain names, and SIM card registration by mobile services operators.</p> <p>Details relating to the Solomon Islands telecommunications market, its regulatory history and the Commission’s administration, are available through the Commission’s website at: <a href="http://www.tcsi.org.sb">www.tcsi.org.sb</a></p>
<p><b>Required experience and expertise</b></p>	<p>The Telecommunications Act 2009 effected major reforms to telecommunications policy and the management of regulatory operations. The most significant change was the opening up of telecommunications to private sector competition.</p> <p>The Commission is responsible for ensuring the effectiveness of this market driven approach, while protecting the interests of consumers and encouraging sustainable investment. The Commission therefore deals with complex issues around; competition and regulatory economics and cost accounting; telecommunications and information technology; international telecommunications policy; land use and land disputes; and the drafting, interpretation and application of statutory provisions and regulatory determinations, as well as administrative law generally.</p> <p>Accordingly the appointee must necessarily have substantive multi-disciplinary practical experience, regardless of their academic qualifications in any particular relevant field.</p> <p>Experience in a developing country environment is an advantage, especially experience in the Pacific region. Fluency in written and verbal English is essential, as is experience in and tertiary qualifications from a Common Law jurisdiction.</p>

<b>Remuneration</b>	<p>The terms and conditions of appointment are subject to negotiation, based on the successful appointee's particular requirements and what they personally bring to the performance of the role.</p> <p>The appointee is expected to reside in Solomon Islands.</p>
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