

19<sup>th</sup> September, 2024.

**ATTENTION: THE DESIGNATED OFFICER**

**Medical Board of Trinidad and Tobago  
Building F2  
Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex  
Uriah Butler Highway,  
West Indies.**

**Dear Sir/Madam,**

**RE: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION PURSUANT TO FREEDOM OF INFORMATION  
ACT (FOIA) DATED THE 19<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024.**

I act on behalf of The Doctors' Ethics and Autonomy Lobby (DEAL), a member of the Trinidad and Tobago Civil Advocacy Network (TTCAN) registered at 1217 Southern Main Rd Couva through its authorized representative member Dr. David Strisiver.

The Doctors' Ethics and Autonomy Lobby (DEAL) is an advocacy group dedicated to the promotion of clinical governance, bioethics and integrity in Medicine. The group comprises a spectrum of generalists, specialists and private and public practitioners registered to practice medicine under the Trinidad and Tobago Medical Board.

Since the proposed amendments to the Medical Board Act (Feb 5<sup>th</sup> 2024) were first presented to the Board on the 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024 (Special General Meeting), Board Members have voiced their concerns regarding proposed sections or clauses which may perpetuate lapses in fiduciary duty, financial transparency and diminish the Council's accountability to the Board. Members are acutely concerned about a lack of budgeting, potential misuse of funds and the presentation of financial statements which have not been signed by the Council or verified by an independent auditor.

**Riad J. Ramsaran (L.L.B., (Hons.), L.P.C)**  
*Attorney-at-Law, Cornerstone Chambers*

The Council indicated that the proposed amendments to the Act “are expected to shortly be laid for debate in Parliament” implying that proposals were already submitted to the Minister of Health without input or approval of the general membership. Despite several enquiries being made, there has been no written confirmation that the proposed amendments have been officially recalled or that any of the Boards objections have been communicated to the Ministry of Health.

In evaluating the legitimacy of the complaints and acquiring appropriate legal advice, it has become necessary to consider certain records of the Medical Board specified in the requests herein below.

**I HEREBY SUBMIT** on my client's behalf a request pursuant to Section 13 of the Freedom of Information Act 1999 Chapter 22:02 of the Laws of Trinidad and Tobago and have attached the relevant Freedom of Information application form requesting the following:

1. Copies of Financial Statements for the periods 2021, 2022, 2023, (Authorized and Signed by Executive Council);
2. Copies of Monthly Statements and/or Source Documents (invoices/receipts/vouchers/authorizations) for:
  - 1) Material Expenditure:
    - a) Induction Ceremony and Ball 2023
    - b) Magdalena Grand Beach and Golf Resort Retreat (2023);
    - c) Travel and Accommodation (Financial years 2022 & 2023)
    - d) Accounting (Financial years 2022 & 2023)
    - e) Advertising (Financial years 2022 & 2023)
  - 2) Dividends;
3. Copies of Budgets and Expenditure Justification for:
  - a) Financial years
    - Jan-Dec 2022;
    - Jan-Dec 2023;
    - Jan-Dec 2024
  - b) Induction Ceremony and Ball (2023)
  - c) Magdalena Grand Beach and Golf Resort Retreat (2023);



- d) International Conference on Medical Regulation (IAMRA Conference 2023, Nov 6-9, Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia)
4. Supporting Documents for Corporate Donations in relation to Induction Ceremony and Ball (2023);
  5. Income and Expenditure Statement for Induction Ceremony and Ball 2023;
  6. Expense Statement for:
    - (a) International Conference on Medical Regulation (IAMRA Conference 2023, Nov 6-9, Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia);
    - (b) Magdalena Grand Beach and Golf Resort Retreat (2023)
  7. Bank statements for the 2022 & 2023;
  8. Minutes, Video Recording and Transcripts for
    - a) Special General Meeting (6th March 2024),
    - b) Annual General Meeting (14th March 2024)
    - c) Special General Meeting (25th June 2024)
  9. Itemized Credit Card Statements/Transaction History for the periods:
    - a. Jan-Dec 2022
    - b. Jan-Dec 2023
    - c. Jan-Sep 2024
  10. Terms of Reference for all Committees (including Law Review, Financial , CPD and Ethics Committee) and the names of all Committee members;
  11. Supporting Documents to explain Bank Interest & Charges amounting to \$114,627 in the 2022 financial year and \$112,129 in 2023 financial year.
  12. Investment policy document
  13. Supporting Documents to explain Bank Interest & Charges amounting to \$114,627 and 112, 129 in 2023 and 2022 respectively.
  14. Delegation of Authority Document identifying the limits of expenditure for levels of management. (President, Secretary and other members of Council)
  15. Any documented communications on behalf of the Council to the Ministry of Health or Law Review Commission (and their responses) which refer to those portions of the Proposed Amendments to the Medical Board Act that have been objected by the

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membership, including:

- a) "Exemption from Liability Clause" (9.A)
- b) Change of "Member" designation to "Registrant"
- c) Lack of Fiduciary Provisions
- d) Lack of Bioethics Provisions
- e) Appointment of a General Manager with an unlimited term of employment and Executive Functions

16. a. Whether the proposals for amendment of the Medical Board Act was issued to the Ministry of Health or any other state entity for laying in parliament, the date of that correspondence and a copy;
- b. Whether the proposals for amendment to the Medical Board Act issued to the Ministry of Health was withdrawn or recalled, the date of that correspondence and a copy of same;

Given the urgent need for information herein, it is hoped that our request will be expeditiously dealt with in conformity with section 15 of the Freedom of Information Act which states that all public authorities shall take reasonable steps to inform the applicant of approval of this request **as soon as is practicable BUT NO LATER THAN THIRTY (30) DAYS** after the request was made.

**TAKE NOTICE** that I hereby call upon you to indicate with **THIRTY (30) days** whether or not access to the requested information will be granted.

Your time and efforts therein are greatly appreciated. Please be guided accordingly,



**RIAD J. RAMSARAN**  
*Attorney-at-Law*

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**ATTORNEY AT LAW.**

**CC: FOIA FORM.**