



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
FREETOWN MUNICIPALITY

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The Acting Commissioner  
The Local Government Service Commission  
Youyi Building  
Brookfields  
Freetown  
5<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Dear Acting Commissioner,

**RE: LOCAL COUNCILS CORE STAFF POSTINGS**

I was shocked to see a letter circulating on social media last night addressed to the Freetown City Council Finance Officer stating that “you are hereby suspended without salary for a period of three (3) months with immediate effect”. The letter dated 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025 and copying me, also states that “you are instructed to hand over all financial documents to the Accountant before the close of business today”.

Acting Commissioner, I wish to bring to your attention the following:

1. I was previously copied in a letter addressed to the Freetown City Council Finance Officer from the Local Government Service Commission Executive Secretary dated 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2025 which threatened suspension if the Finance Officer did not do a handover to the Finance Officer from Pujehun District Council on 30<sup>th</sup> December 2025.
2. On 24<sup>th</sup> December 2025 I wrote to the Executive Secretary with you in copy, explaining that the year end is a critical time for the finance function of any institution and pointing out that transferring the Freetown City Council Finance Officer on 30<sup>th</sup> December would serve to destabilize and undermine the financial operations of Freetown City Council.
3. In my letter I listed a number of key financial activities that are currently underway and which would be adversely affected by a transfer of our Finance Officer at this material time, and I requested that this transfer be put on hold until the Freetown City Council Finance Officer completed these year-end processes.
4. **Neither the Local Government Service Commission Executive Secretary nor yourself as the Acting Commissioner provided me with a response to the valid concerns I raised and the reasonable request made for the transfer to be delayed to ensure that Freetown City Council’s**

**financial operations and year end processes were not adversely affected. There was no acknowledgement of receipt of my letter.**

5. The actions of the Local Government Service Commission are contrary to the spirit and the provisions of the Local Government Act 2022 Section 33 which states **“A Local Council shall be responsible for the recruitment, promotion and discipline of its staff in collaboration with – (a) the Commission; (b) the Ministry; (c) Public Service Commission; (d) Human Resource Management Office.**
6. Not only has the Local Government Service Commission completely taken over the responsibilities given to the Local Council by Section 33 of the Local Government Act, **egregiously there has been no consultation with the Freetown City Council in respect of this proposed disciplinary action.**
7. May I use this opportunity to remind you that the “Local Council” is defined in Section 4 (1) of the Local Government Act as follows: “A local council consisting of... (a) Mayor/District Council Chairman; (b) Deputy Mayor/Deputy District Chairman; (c) such number of elected councillors from the locality; (d) the number of Members of Parliament from the constituencies that fall within the area of authority of local council without voting rights; (f) four tribal headmen without voting rights.
8. Kindly note that the Chief Administrator who is referenced in the Executive Secretary’s letter of 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2025 and in your letter of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025 as having provided you with reports that the Finance Officer had not done the handing over, is a member of staff and does not speak for the Local Council except when authorised to do so through a decision of the Council.
9. Furthermore, may I direct your attention to the Local Government Act 2022 Section 44 (3) which states that “The quorum at a meeting of the Commission shall be five members”. Additionally, Section 44 (5) states that “Decisions of the Commission shall be by majority vote of the members present and voting at a meeting...”. As you are aware, contrary to the provisions of the Local Government Act, the decision to suspend the Freetown City Council Finance Officer threatened in the letter of 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2025 and then communicated in the letter of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025 was not made by a meeting of the Commission with a legal quorum and is therefore not valid.

As stated above, I am deeply concerned by the disdain with which the Local Government Service Commission has treated the valid technical concerns raised by myself as the head of Freetown City Council with responsibility “to ensure that the financial affairs of the local council are properly managed and controlled” as stated in Section 12 (2) (h) of the Local Government Act of 2022. As my interest in this matter is the smooth functioning of the financial operations of Freetown City Council and for there to be respect for the provisions of the Local Government Act 2022, please be informed that I will not facilitate the handing over of the Finance Officer position until these concerns are addressed. For ease of reference, I attach here my letter of 24<sup>th</sup> December 2025.

Assuring you of my highest regards.



**Yvonne Aki-Sawyer OBE**

Mayor of Freetown

**Copied to:**

Hon Minister, Ministry of Local Government and Community Affairs  
President, Local Council Association of Sierra Leone  
Chairman, Local Government Parliamentary Oversight Committee  
Director, Fiscal Decentralization Department, Ministry of Finance  
The Executive Secretary, Local Government Service Commission  
Deputy Mayor, Freetown City Council  
Chairperson, Appointments Advisory Committee, Freetown City Council  
The Senior Human Resource Officer, LGSC  
Chief Administrator, Freetown City Council  
The Finance Officer, Freetown City Council