

CASE STUDY

On December 5, 2025, Roger Rainforest, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Farming and Fisheries posted surety for the bail of Carlos Bill, who is facing criminal charges linked to financial operations associated with the well-known Dash Plus, court records show.

Bill appeared before the court earlier this week on multiple counts related to alleged irregularities in financial transactions connected to Dash Plus. Prosecutors allege the operations involved breaches of financial regulations, though details of the charges were not fully aired in open court.

Following the hearing, the court granted Bill bail under standard conditions, including travel restrictions and regular reporting requirements. Rainforest's posting of surety satisfied one of the key conditions for Bill's release pending trial.

Neither Bill nor Rainforest addressed reporters after the proceedings. Legal representatives for Bill said their client denies wrongdoing and intends to contest the charges. "Mr. Bill maintains his innocence and looks forward to presenting a full defense," counsel said in a brief statement.

Dash Plus has not issued a public statement regarding the matter.

Mr. Rainforest was issued a letter from the Public Service Commission on December 6, 2025, inviting him to a meeting to discuss the recent revelations of his involvement in the posting of bail for Mr. Carlos Bill. He was informed that he had a right to be accompanied by a representative of his choice.

At the end of the meeting a disciplinary proceeding was initiated against Mr. Rainforest and upon the conclusion of the hearing the Committee recommended that Mr. Forrest should be dismissed for his involvement with posting bail for Mr. Bill as it represented a conflict of interest.

Mr. Rainforest at a meeting on January 4, 2026, received two letters:

(a) Letter from the Governor General dated January 5, 2026, outlining that

"The Public Service Commission has advised his Excellency the Governor General that pursuant to Regulations 43 of the Public Service Regulations 1961 that you should be dismissed from the Public Service with effect from January 5, 2026.

However, before His Excellency acts on this advice, you may apply for your case to be referred to the Privy Council for its consideration and recommendation to His Excellency. If you choose to do so, then this must be done within fourteen days of you receiving this letter and you must state the grounds on which you make the application. Your application should be directed to the Office of the Services Commission. Failure

to comply with these requirements will lead to His Excellency acting on the Public Service Commission's advice without further reference to you."

(b) Letter from the Office of the Services Commission dated January 5, 2026, outlining the following:

"I am directed to inform you that the Public Service Commission considered the report of the Committee of Enquiry, which investigated the disciplinary charge against you (attached), and in keeping with its findings, the Commission has recommended to the Governor General that you should be dismissed from the Public Service in accordance with regulation 43 of the Public Service Regulations 1961.

The Governor General has accepted the Commission's recommendation and has given approval for your dismissal with effect from January 5, 2026. In this regard you are kindly asked to acknowledge receipt of the attached letter from the Governor General dated January 4, 2026."

Questions:

1. What steps were required to be taken by the Ministry of Farming and Fisheries if it had decided to interdict Mr. Rainforest?
2. Once the decision was made to institute disciplinary proceedings against Mr. Rainforest, which principles of natural justice were required to be observed?

Explain your answer.

3. What procedural irregularities can be identified from the contents of the second letter issued to Mr. Rainforest?