

Media Release

Minister for Home Affairs Instructs POFMA Office to Issue Targeted Correction Direction to Facebook

Singapore – 29 November 2019: The Minister for Home Affairs has instructed the POFMA Office to issue a Targeted Correction Direction¹ (TCD) to Facebook, following Mr Alex Tan Zhi Xiang’s non-compliance with the Correction Direction² (CD) issued on 28 November 2019.

2. The TCD requires Facebook to publish a correction notice on a “States Times Review” Facebook post, published on 23 November 2019, 8.05am. Mr Tan runs the “States Times Review” Facebook page.
3. POFMA Office has also commenced investigations against Mr Tan for failing to comply with the CD.
4. For correct facts of the case, please refer to the Factually article “Corrections on Falsehoods posted by States Times Review” (www.gov.sg/factually/content/corrections-on-falsehoods-posted-by-states-times-review).

About the POFMA Office

The POFMA Office, situated within the Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA), is responsible for the administration of the Protection from Online Falsehoods and Manipulation Act (POFMA). For more information about POFMA Office, visit www.pofmaoffice.gov.sg.

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¹ A Targeted Correction Direction is a Direction issued to an Internet Intermediary (“II”), whose service was used to communicate a falsehood that affects the public interest. The Direction requires the II to communicate a correction notice by means of its service to all users in Singapore who access the falsehood through its service. This is so that users who see the falsehood on a platform also see the correction notice on that platform.

² A Correction Direction is a Direction issued to a person who has communicated a falsehood (i.e. the recipient) that affects the public interest. It requires the recipient to publish a correction notice, providing access to the correct facts. The Direction does not require the recipient to take down their post or make edits to their content, and does not impose criminal sanctions.