

LIFTING OF TEMPORARY EXEMPTIONS FROM GENERAL CORRECTION DIRECTIONS UNDER THE PROTECTION FROM ONLINE FALSEHOODS AND MANIPULATION ACT

Several Internet intermediaries were temporarily exempted from General Correction Direction (GCD)¹ requirements when the Protection from Online Falsehoods and Manipulation Act (POFMA) took effect in October 2019. This temporary exemption will be lifted with effect from 31 January 2020. With the lifting of this exemption, Facebook, Google Search, Baidu, Twitter, and HardwareZone, will be required to carry GCDs if the Act is applied to them.

2. This is critical given the evolving situation with the Wuhan Coronavirus. The Government is prepared to use all tools at its disposal to provide the public with accurate and up-to-date information, and to deal with falsehoods that may cause panic or confusion. We have worked closely with the relevant technology companies, and appreciate the industry's support and cooperation in our national response to this challenging situation.

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION
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¹ A General Correction Direction (GCD) may be issued where (i) a false statement of fact has been communicated in Singapore, and (ii) it is in the public interest to issue the GCD. GCDs may only be issued to prescribed intermediaries. An intermediary that receives a GCD may be required to communicate a correction notice to all users of its service in Singapore.

