

Media Statement

POFMA Office issues warning to woman for COVID-19 falsehoods

Singapore – 31 Aug 2022: The POFMA Office has issued a conditional warning to a 47-year-old woman, for making statements knowing or having reason to believe that they are false and likely to harm the public interest.

The woman was an administrator of the Truth Warriors website which published false claims misleading people into thinking that COVID-19 vaccines are not effective in reducing transmission rates of COVID-19. The falsehoods ran counter to efforts to combat the COVID-19 virus. On 24 October 2021, a POFMA direction was issued to Truth Warriors to carry correction notices on its website to inform Singaporeans of the falsehoods.

During the course of the investigations, the woman said she had checked the credentials of original authors for the articles but admitted that she cannot be certain whether the information published was true.

After careful consideration of the facts and circumstances of the case, the POFMA Office issued a 12-month conditional warning to the woman for the charges. If she reoffends during this period, she can be prosecuted for the original crime. An offence under section 7 of the POFMA carries a fine of up to \$50,000, an imprisonment term of up to 5 years, or both.

Online falsehoods that sow public confusion affect lives and harm society. The Government takes a serious view of the deliberate communication of these false statements.

Correction directions are POFMA's primary tools that require a notice next to the original post, with a link to Government's clarifications. The clarification sets out the facts without the original post being removed. Readers can therefore read both the original post and the facts.

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.

For media queries, please contact:

YUEN Hui Tian (Ms)
Manager, Corporate Communications, POFMA Office
DID: (65) 6955 0263
Email: yuen_hui_tian@pofmaoffice.gov.sg