

## POFMA Action Taken Up To 31 December 2023

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	<b>Total</b>	
<b>Cases<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>60</b>	<p>Between 2020 and Q1 2023, at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, approximately 55% of POFMA cases were COVID-19 related, <i>i.e.</i>, 21 out of 38 POFMA cases</p>
Correction Directions <sup>2</sup>	104	
Stop Communication Directions	0	
Targeted Correction Directions <sup>2</sup>	20	
Disabling Directions	0	
General Correction Directions	5	
Access Blocking Orders <sup>2</sup>	3	
Account Restriction Directions	0	
<b>Declared Online Locations<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>13</b>	
<b>Access Disabling Order</b>	<b>3</b>	

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For more information on POFMA (including FAQs), please click [here](#).

Please refer to the [Glossary of Terms](#) for an overview of the various POFMA Directions and Orders.

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<sup>1</sup> For the specific cases, please click [here](#).

<sup>2</sup> Statistics include 1 CD, 1 TCD and 1 ABO which were cancelled in September 2023

<sup>3</sup> Statistics include 4 Declared Online Locations that expired in 2022. For more information on Declared Online Locations, please click [here](#).

## Glossary of Terms

### **Correction Direction**

- The party who communicated the falsehood can be directed to put up a correction notice, stating that the statement communicated was false and/or providing a link to where the facts may be found. The Correction Direction does not require the party to remove or make edits to the falsehood in the original post. The direction may only be issued if (i) there is a false statement of fact communicated in Singapore and (ii) it is in the public interest to do so.

### **Stop Communication Direction**

- The party who communicated the falsehood can be directed to take necessary steps to stop communicating the falsehood. This may include removing the falsehood communicated as well as stopping the publication, sharing or posting of the falsehood in Singapore. Under a Stop Communication Direction, the party may also be required to communicate a correction notice to a specified person (or group of persons), and/or publish a correction notice in a specified newspaper or printed publication. The direction may only be issued if (i) there is a false statement of fact communicated in Singapore and (ii) it is in the public interest to do so.

### **Targeted Correction Direction**

- An Internet Intermediary, whose service was used to communicate the falsehood, can be directed to communicate a correction notice to all of its end-users who accessed that falsehood via its service, stating that the statement communicated was false and/or where the facts may be found. The direction may only be issued if (i) there is a false statement of fact communicated in Singapore and (ii) it is in the public interest to do so.

### **Disabling Direction**

- An Internet Intermediary, whose service was used to communicate the falsehood, can be directed to disable access to the falsehood for all end-users in Singapore. The Disabling Direction may also require a prescribed Internet Intermediary<sup>4</sup> to disable access to identical copies of the falsehood and/or communicate a correction notice to its users in Singapore. The direction may only be issued if (i) there is a false statement of fact communicated in Singapore and (ii) it is in the public interest to do so.

### **General Correction Direction**

- Prescribed Internet Intermediaries, newspapers, broadcasting licensees or telecommunication licensees can be directed to carry a correction notice to all end-users or readers in Singapore on their service, so that the correct facts about a serious falsehood are conveyed to the public as quickly and widely as possible. The direction may only be issued if (i) there is a false statement of fact communicated in Singapore and (ii) it is in the public interest to do so.

### **Access Blocking Order**

- Internet Access Service Providers (IASPs) can be ordered (e.g., where there is failure to comply with the Directions stated above) to disable access to an online location containing falsehoods, for all users in Singapore.

### **Account Restriction Direction**

- An Account Restriction Direction can be issued to prescribed Internet Intermediaries whose services were used by inauthentic accounts or bots to communicate a falsehood or for coordinated inauthentic behaviour, where

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<sup>4</sup> Information on the prescribed Internet Intermediaries can be found [here](#).

it is in the public interest to issue such a Direction. The Account Restriction Direction requires the prescribed Internet Intermediary to disallow its services from being used to communicate in Singapore through the specified online accounts and/or disallow any person from using the specified online accounts to interact with other users in Singapore.

#### **Declared Online Location**

- An online location can be declared as a declared online location if it has carried three or more different online falsehoods which are the subject of POFMA Directions, and at least three of those falsehoods had first been communicated in Singapore on the online location within a period of 6 months prior to the Declaration.

#### **Access Disabling Order**

- The Access Disabling Order may be issued if the owner or operator of a declared online location fails to comply with the requirement to notify users that the online location is subject to a Declaration, or includes and communicates paid content on the declared online location in Singapore. The order requires an Internet Intermediary to disable access by end-users in Singapore to a declared online location.

For more details on POFMA legislation, please click [here](#).