

Home Team Connects

Connecting You with the Home Team

An initiative by the Home Team Volunteer Network



EDITOR'S PICK

HTVN WEBINAR – PROTECT YOURSELF FROM SCAMS



Public education remains a key pillar of Singapore's anti-scam strategy to cultivate a vigilant and discerning public, and everyone has a part to play in our war against scams. A HTVN Webinar on anti-scam was organised on 16 January 2024, as part of a collaboration between the Scam Public Education Office (SPEO) at the Singapore Police Force, and the Community Partnership and Communications Group (CPCG) at the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The event was graced by Ms. Sun Xueling (Minister of State for Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Social and Family Development) who delivered the closing remarks and offered her insights on key questions on scams from our Home Team Volunteers, alongside Mr. Jeffrey Chin (Deputy Director, SPEO). A scam awareness presentation was also delivered by SUPT Rosie Ann McIntyre (Assistant Director, SPEO) for our Home Team Volunteers. With a strong turnout of over 150 participants from the various Home Team volunteer schemes, our Home Team Volunteers gained a greater appreciation of the scam situation in Singapore and ongoing whole-of-government anti-scam initiatives such as the 'I Can ACT Against Scams' campaign.



As a Volunteer, you can be a Scam Guardian!

- Keep up-to-date with the latest scam trends and information
- Be the resource person to share anti-scam knowledge with your loved ones and your networks
- Guide victims of scam to report to the authorities and where to seek assistance
- Report information on scams to via ScamShield app, ScamShield WhatsApp Chatbot or iWitness on police website

Official Content - Non-Sensitive

Our Home Team Volunteers were also empowered to become scam guardians for their community by staying updated with the latest scam trends and information, sharing anti-scam knowledge with their loved ones and networks, and referring victims of scam to official sources to report scams and locate support resources.

Let's remain vigilant and continue to combat scams collectively as One Home Team community!

[➤➤ Read the highlights, presentation deck and a consolidated list of Q&A from the webinar](#)

HOME TEAM DAY – ORIGIN STORY

The Home Team concept was **officially launched on 24 February 1997** by then-Minister for Home Affairs, Mr Wong Kan Seng, to bring our departments together to tackle homeland safety and security challenges in an integrated manner.

It is the core principle behind how we train, plan and operate to ensure a coordinated approach. It signifies our commitment to work together as One Home Team, towards our common mission of keeping Singapore safe and secure.

The launch of the inaugural Home Team Day will take place on **24 February 2024** at HomeTeamNS Bedok Reservoir Clubhouse!

**MHA IN PARLIAMENT****Bills****Second Reading of Stillbirths & Births (Miscellaneous Amendments Bill)**

The Bill was passed in Parliament on 9 January. It introduces two main amendments, in relation to stillbirths, to the Registration of Births and Deaths Act 2021. The amendments include:

- a. Enabling the parents of a stillborn child to apply to the Registrar-General of Births and Deaths for a name to be entered in the stillbirth register, within one year after the stillbirth, should they wish to do so.
- b. Amending the definition of a “stillborn child” by raising the threshold from 22 weeks of pregnancy to 24 weeks.

[>> Read the Second Reading Speech](#)

[>> Read the Wrap-up Speech](#)

First Reading of Criminal Procedure (Miscellaneous Amendments Bill)

The Criminal Procedure (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill was jointly introduced by MinLaw and MHA in Parliament on 10 January for first reading.

The Bill advances our criminal justice system and contains significant proposals aimed at:

- a. Protecting the public by strengthening our levers to tackle crime, including serious sexual crime; and
- b. Enhancing transparency, fairness and coherence in our criminal court processes.

[>> Read the press release](#)

PRESS RELEASE**COMMENCEMENT OF THE ONLINE CRIMINAL HARMS ACT (OCHA) ON 1 FEBRUARY 2024**

1. The Online Criminal Harms Act (OCHA) was passed in Parliament on 5 July 2023.
2. OCHA introduces measures to enable the Government to deal more effectively with online activities that are criminal in nature. These measures include:
 - a. Directions to online services to restrict the exposure of Singapore users to criminal activities on their platforms;
 - b. Orders to limit further exposure to the criminal activities being conducted on the platforms of non-compliant online services;
 - c. Powers to require information to administer the Act and facilitate investigations and criminal proceedings; and
 - d. Codes of practice and directives to strengthen partnership with online services to counter scams and malicious cyber activities
3. The provisions for 2(a) to 2(c) will come into effect on 1 February 2024. Provisions relating to 2(d) will come into force at a later stage.

Directions

4. Designated Officers can issue directions to any online service provider, entity, or individual, when there is reasonable suspicion that an online activity is in furtherance of the commission of a specified offence.¹
5. For scams and malicious cyber activities, the threshold for issuing directions is lower. Directions can be issued when there is suspicion or reason to believe that any online activity is being carried out in preparation for or in furtherance of the commission of a scam or malicious cyber activity offence. This will enable the Government to proactively disrupt scams and malicious cyber activities before the public falls prey.²
6. Depending on the facts of the case, the following directions may be issued:
 - a. Stop Communication Direction. This requires the recipient of the direction to stop communicating specified online content (including substantially similar content) to people in Singapore. The recipients of the direction are persons and entities who communicated such online content.
 - b. Disabling Direction. This requires online service providers to disable specified content (e.g. a post or page) on their service from the view of people in Singapore, which may include identical copies of the content.
 - c. Account Restriction Direction. This requires online service providers to stop an account on their service from communicating in Singapore and/or interacting with people in Singapore.
 - d. Access Blocking Direction. This requires internet service providers to block access to an online location such as a web domain from the view of people in Singapore.
 - e. App Removal Direction. This requires app stores to remove an app from its Singapore storefront, to stop further downloads of the app by people in Singapore.
7. For a start, directions will be issued against scam websites and egregious online activities. This approach enables the Government to prioritise tackling scams and egregious offences, while developing the necessary systems and processes to scale up the issuance of directions for online activities in furtherance of the commission of other specified offences. Examples of egregious offences include, but are not restricted to, those related to threat of death and serious hurt, and threat to law-and-order.

Orders

8. Should an online service not comply with the directions, the Competent Authority may issue an order to restrict access to the service or part of the service, to limit the further exposure of persons in Singapore to the criminal activity.
9. Orders operate alongside, and do not replace, other measures that the Government can take for the non-compliance of directions, such as prosecution.

Appeal Framework

10. Recipients of a direction, the proprietor of the online location and the originator of the material targeted by the direction may apply to a Designated Officer for reconsideration. For orders, the reconsideration of the Competent Authority may be sought.
11. Should the application for reconsideration be unsuccessful, the appellant can appeal to a Reviewing Tribunal for the direction or order to be cancelled. The Reviewing Tribunal comprises a District Judge or Magistrate appointed by the President, on the advice of the Cabinet.
12. Details of the appeal procedures can be found on <https://go.gov.sg/ocha-reviewing-tribunal>.

Powers to Require Information

13. A Designated Officer, the Competent Authority or an Authorised Officer may require any person to whom a direction or an order is issued to provide any information necessary for the administration of the Act.

14. When there is a reasonable suspicion that a specified offence has been committed, Police officers and enforcement officers can request online service providers or owners of online location(s) to provide relevant information to facilitate investigations and criminal proceedings.

15. These powers also apply to entities that are based overseas and information which is stored overseas.

Conclusion

16. OCHA allows the Government, in partnership with the industry, to act more effectively against online criminal harms. For more information on OCHA, please refer to <https://go.gov.sg/ocha>.

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS 30 JANUARY 2024

¹ Specified offences are in Part 1 of the First Schedule of the Act.

² Scam and cyber malicious activity offences are in Part 2 of the First Schedule of the Act.

ANNEX – Information on OCHA

MHA Press Release on the Introduction of the Online Criminal Harms Bill

<https://www.mha.gov.sg/mediaroom/press-releases/introduction-of-the-online-criminal-harms-bill/>

Second Reading of the Online Criminal Harms Bill – Opening Speech by

Mrs Josephine Teo, Minister for Communications and Information & Second Minister for Home Affairs

<https://www.mha.gov.sg/mediaroom/parliamentary/second-reading-of-the-online-criminal-harms-bill/>

Second Reading of the Online Criminal Harms Bill – Wrap-Up Speech by

Mrs Josephine Teo, Minister for Communications and Information & Second Minister for Home Affairs

<https://www.mha.gov.sg/mediaroom/parliamentary/online-criminal-harms-bill/>

HOME TEAM UPDATES

FESTIVE VISITS

To thank our frontliners for their dedication and hard work, our Political Office Holders visited officers on duty during Christmas and New Year at Traffic Police, Tanglin Division, Tuas Checkpoint, Jurong Fire Station, and Sengkang Fire Station.



MIN K Shanmugam with SPF officers



2MIN Josephine Teo with SPF officers



MOS Sun Xueling with ICA officers



MOS Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim with SCDF officers (Jurong Fire Station)



MOS Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim with SCDF officers (Sengkang Fire Station)

TOTAL DEFENCE DAY 2024

2024 marks 40 years of Total Defence in Singapore, since it was first introduced in 1984.

As we reflect on how Total Defence had rallied Singaporeans together to address challenges in the past, we should also consider how we can all play our part to put Total Defence into action and be ready for crises and disruptions in the future.

The **inaugural Exercise Singapore Ready** will be conducted from **15 to 29 Feb 2024**, simulating disruptions of power, water, food supply, digital connectivity and civil emergency. Over 500 organisations from the private, public and people sectors will be participating in this exercise. Some SAF units and MINDEF departments are taking part too.

Click the link below to access the **Total Defence Day 2024 Engagement Package** or simply scan the QR code:

>> go.gov.sg/ttday2024-nepackage010124



<https://go.gov.sg/ttday2024-nepackage>

SGSECURE
STAY ALERT. STAY UNITED. STAY STRONG.

SGSECURE ROADSHOW MAKES WAVES AT WATERWAY POINT



The **SGSecure Roadshow** made its stop at **Waterway Point** from **12-14 January**. Through interactive gameplay and engagements with SPF and SCDF officers, visitors of all ages learnt how to detect suspicious behaviours and items as well as basic life-saving skills. More importantly, they went home knowing that staying united is our best defence against terrorism and to safeguard our way of life!

More than 6,800 visitors have completed this fun learning journey at the first three runs of the current series of SGSecure Roadshows. More than 1,400 visitors have also signed up as SGSecure Responders to come forward to help others in times of need.



The SGSecure Programme Office (SSPO) also had the pleasure of hosting our counterparts from the **Hong Kong Inter-departmental Counter Terrorism Unit**, who were here to learn and exchange best practices with us on public education and engagement efforts. As part of their study visit, SSPO brought them on a tour of our roadshow.

Don't miss this unique experience and stand to receive exclusive SGSecure souvenirs through your active participation at our roadshows! **Visit the next roadshow at Jurong Point, Level 1 Atrium, from 29 to 31 March and be inspired to be a part of the SGSecure movement!**

HOME TEAM INSIGHTS

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Dear Volunteers,

Happy New Year 2024.
Wishing you a blessed new year filled with happiness and success! 😊

From,
HTVN Secretariats

BEHIND PRISONS WALLS ON NEW YEAR'S



Three #CaptainsOfLives share what they did while on duty during New Year's Day.

>> go.gov.sg/sps-010124

BEYOND SECURING BORDERS



They do not just protect our borders. Watch how ICA apprehended overstayers in an operation at Choa Chu Kang Cemetery.

>> go.gov.sg/ica-100124

YOUR FEEDBACK MATTERS

GOT A MINUTE?

Thank you for reading our HT Connects newsletter! 😊

Any feedback on this month's HT Connects issue? Let us know by scanning the QR Code or email us at MHA_HTVOLUNTEERS@mha.gov.sg



Have a story to share? Connect with Us



One Home, One Team – Together We Keep Our Home Safe and Secure



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