

Media Release

Minister for Health Instructs POFMA Office to Issue Correction Direction and Targeted Correction Direction

Singapore – 14 February 2020: The Minister for Health has instructed the POFMA Office to issue a Correction Direction¹ to Mr Alex Tan, as the owner of the States Times Review Facebook page, and a Targeted Correction Direction² to Facebook.

2. Multiple false statements were made in a Facebook post on the States Times Review Facebook page on 13 February 2020. For facts of the case, please refer to the Factually article, “Corrections And Clarifications Regarding Falsehoods Published By States Times Review on the COVID-19 Situation” (www.gov.sg/article/factually-clarifications-on-falsehoods-posted-by-str-on-covid-19-situation)

3. We advise members of the public not to speculate and/or spread falsehoods and rumours. They should rely on formal Government channels such as the Ministry of Health’s official website (www.moh.gov.sg) and Gov.sg WhatsApp service (<http://go.gov.sg/whatsapp>) to get accurate and up-to-date information on the COVID-19 situation in Singapore. Any suspected falsehoods can be reported to info@pofmaoffice.gov.sg.

¹ 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.

² 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.

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:

LIOW Ruo Yu (Ms)

Assistant Manager, Corporate Communications, POFMA Office

DID: (65) 6751 2828

Email: liow_ruo_yu@pofmaoffice.gov.sg

CHUA Hian Hou (Mr)

Deputy Director, Corporate Communications, POFMA Office

DID: (65) 6202 4956

Email: chua_hian_hou@pofmaoffice.gov.sg