



THE STATUTES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

STATISTICS ACT 1973

2020 REVISED EDITION

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Statistics Act 1973

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An Act relating to statistics.

[7 September 1973]

Short title

1. This Act is the Statistics Act 1973.

Interpretation

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires —

“anonymised microdata” means particulars or information pertaining to any person which is in a form that conceals or protects the identity of that person, whether by presenting the particulars or information in statistical form or otherwise, so that the identity of that person cannot be readily discovered or ascertained from the particulars or information;

“public agency” means a public officer, an Organ of State or a ministry or department of the Government, or a public authority established by or under any written law for a public purpose or a member, an officer or an employee thereof;

“requisition” means a requisition issued under section 5;

“research and statistics unit” means a research and statistics unit specified in the Second Schedule;

“statistical purposes” means the compilation of statistics or the preparation of anonymised microdata relating to any subject matter listed in the First Schedule.

Statistics Department and research and statistics units

3.—(1) The Department of Statistics and all research and statistics units may, in accordance with the provisions of this Act, collect and process data for statistical purposes.

(2) The Department of Statistics is under the control and management of a Chief Statistician and any other officers that the Minister may appoint.

(3) A research and statistics unit is under the control and management of a director and any other officers that the appropriate Minister responsible for the unit may appoint.

National statistical coordinator

4.—(1) The Chief Statistician is the national statistical coordinator whose duties are —

- (a) to coordinate statistical activities in public agencies, including the allocation of the subject matters in respect of which research and statistics units may exercise their powers under section 5;
- (b) to advise public agencies in the gathering, compiling, analysis and utilisation of statistics;
- (c) to develop national statistical standards and standardise definitions, classifications, terms, procedures and concepts for use in statistical activities; and
- (d) to promote the observance of approved national statistical standards by public agencies.

(2) All research and statistics units must comply with the recommendations of the Chief Statistician on any matter specified in subsection (1)(c) and (d).

(3) If a research and statistics unit refuses to accept a recommendation of the Chief Statistician, the director of the research and statistics unit must notify the Chief Statistician in writing of the refusal and the reasons for the refusal.

(4) On receipt of any notice from a research and statistics unit under subsection (3), the Chief Statistician must —

- (a) reconsider the recommendation in question; and
- (b) in the event of the inability of the Chief Statistician to rescind or revise the recommendation, refer the matter to the Minister who must give directions to the research and statistics unit as the Minister thinks fit and that research and statistics unit must comply with the directions of the Minister.