

**Statistics Act  
(CHAPTER 317)**

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**STATISTICS ACT**

**(CHAPTER 317)**

(Original Enactment: Act 46 of 1973)

REVISED EDITION 2012

(31st July 2012)

An Act relating to statistics.

[7th September 1973]

**Short title**

1. This Act may be cited as the Statistics Act.

**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 such particulars or information in statistical form or otherwise, such 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.

*[19/86; 9/90; 3/2010]*

### **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.

*[3/2010 wef 12/02/2010]*

(2) The Department of Statistics shall be under the control and management of a Chief Statistician and such other officers as the Minister may appoint.

(3) A research and statistics unit shall be under the control and management of a director and such other officers as the appropriate Minister responsible for the unit may appoint.

### **National statistical co-ordinator**

4.—(1) The Chief Statistician shall be the national statistical co-ordinator whose duties shall be —

- (a) to co-ordinate 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.

*[9/90; 3/2010]*

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

*[9/90; 3/2010]*

(3) If a research and statistics unit refuses to accept a recommendation of the Chief

Statistician, the director of the research and statistics unit shall notify the Chief Statistician in writing of such refusal and the reasons therefor.

[9/90; 3/2010]

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

- (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 shall give directions to the research and statistics unit as he thinks fit and that research and statistics unit shall comply with the directions of the Minister.

[9/90]

### **Power of Chief Statistician and director of research and statistics unit to issue requisition for information**

5.—(1) It shall be lawful for the Chief Statistician or the director of a research and statistics unit to issue a requisition to any person or the occupier of any premises to furnish particulars and supply information to him, for the purpose of obtaining data for statistical purposes, and every such person or occupier is bound to furnish the particulars and supply the information to the best of his knowledge and belief.

[3/2010]

(2) A requisition shall —

- (a) be in writing;
- (b) be served upon the person to whom it is addressed or the occupier of any premises, as the case may be, in the manner specified in section 11; and
- (c) specify the particulars or information required.

[3/2010]

(3) A requisition may —

- (a) specify the form in which and the time within which the particulars and information are to be furnished;
- (b) require the particulars and information to be furnished periodically at or within such time or times and in such form or forms as are specified in the requisition; and
- (c) specify the place or manner at or in which the particulars and information are to be delivered.

(4) No person is bound to furnish any particulars or information other than those which are accessible to him or derived by him from any business, occupation or work in

the conduct or supervision of which he is engaged.

### **Power to request information from research and statistics units and other public agencies**

6.—(1) For the purpose of obtaining data for statistical purposes, the Chief Statistician may in writing direct —

- (a) the director of any research and statistics unit to furnish or supply to him any particulars or information obtained pursuant to any requisition issued by the director under section 5; or
- (b) any public agency to furnish or supply to him any particulars or information in the possession of the public agency, whether or not —
  - (i) the particulars or information were provided to the public agency by another person or public agency (referred to in this section as the data source); or
  - (ii) the public agency directed to furnish the particulars or information, or the data source, is under any obligation (whether imposed by any written law or otherwise) not to disclose the particulars or information.

[3/2010]

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of this Act or any other written law, the director of any research and statistics unit or the public agency shall furnish the particulars and information as directed under subsection (1) except, in relation to a direction under subsection (1)(b), any particulars or information which have been exempted from being so furnished by —

- (a) the Minister responsible for the public agency directed to furnish or supply the particulars or information under subsection (1)(b); or
- (b) the Minister responsible for the data source.

[3/2010]

(3) All particulars and information required to be furnished under subsection (1) shall be furnished within such time as may be agreed to between the Chief Statistician and the director of a research and statistics unit or the public agency, as the case may be.

[3/2010]

(4) Notwithstanding the provisions of this Act or any other written law —

- (a) no person shall be guilty of an offence under this Act or that other written law or of any breach of confidence or incur any liability, criminal or civil, by virtue merely of his disclosing any particulars or information to the