



# THE STATUTES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

## HOME TEAM SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AGENCY ACT 2019

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# Home Team Science and Technology Agency Act 2019

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An Act to establish the Home Team Science and Technology Agency.  
[1 December 2019]

## PART 1

## PRELIMINARY

**Short title**

1. This Act is the Home Team Science and Technology Agency Act 2019.

**Interpretation**

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

“Agency” means the Home Team Science and Technology Agency established by section 3;

“Chairperson”, in relation to the Agency, means the member of the Agency who is appointed under section 12 as the Chairperson of the Agency, and includes any person appointed under section 14 to act in that capacity;

- “Chief Executive” means the Chief Executive of the Agency appointed under section 29, and includes any person acting in that capacity;
- “committee” means a committee of the Agency appointed under section 27;
- “committee member” means an individual appointed to be a member of a committee;
- “Deputy Chairperson”, in relation to the Agency, means a member of the Agency who is appointed under section 12 as a Deputy Chairperson of the Agency;
- “forensic purpose” means —
- (a) investigating an offence or a suspected offence under any written law or offences generally;
  - (b) investigating the death of an individual or identifying a deceased individual;
  - (c) investigating the whereabouts of or identifying a missing individual; or
  - (d) investigating the cause or origin of any fire;
- “framework contract” means a contract between one or more procuring organisations in the Singapore public sector and one or more suppliers the purpose of which is to establish the terms governing orders for the supply of goods, works or services to be placed during a fixed period;
- “functions”, in relation to the Agency, means functions conferred on the Agency by this Act or any other Act;
- “Home Team agency” means any department of the Government within the Ministry of Home Affairs;
- “member”, in relation to the Agency, means a member of the Agency appointed under section 10, and includes any person appointed under section 14 to act in that capacity;
- “public body” has the meaning given by the Public Sector (Governance) Act 2018;

“public security purpose” means —

- (a) the maintaining of law and order and the preserving or restoring of public peace and safety in Singapore;
- (b) the prevention and detection of crimes and offences under any written law; or
- (c) the prevention of, and the response to, any serious incident within the meaning of section 3 of the Public Order and Safety (Special Powers) Act 2018;

“Singapore public sector” has the meaning given by the Public Sector (Governance) Act 2018;

“transfer date” means 1 December 2019.

## PART 2

### ESTABLISHMENT, FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF AGENCY

#### **Home Team Science and Technology Agency**

3. A body called the Home Team Science and Technology Agency is established by this section.

#### **Agency is body corporate**

4.—(1) The Agency —

- (a) is a body corporate with perpetual succession;
- (b) may acquire, hold and dispose of real and personal property; and
- (c) may sue and be sued in its corporate name.

(2) The Agency may use, and operate under, one or more trading names approved by the Minister.

(3) A trading name can be an abbreviation or adaptation of the Agency’s corporate name, or a name other than the Agency’s corporate name.

(4) The Agency must cause notice of every trading name approved under subsection (2) to be published in the *Gazette*; but failure to do so does not invalidate the approval or use of that name.

### **Functions of Agency**

5.—(1) The Agency has the following functions:

- (a) to provide scientific and technological services for or in relation to a forensic purpose or public security purpose to any Home Team agency or organisation in the Singapore public sector;
- (b) to carry out, support and facilitate the research and development and application of science and technology in relation to forensic purposes or public security purposes for the benefit of any Home Team agency or organisation in the Singapore public sector;
- (c) to manage scientific or technological cooperation between any Home Team agency and other persons in relation to a forensic purpose or public security purpose;
- (d) to undertake as an agent of the Government the procurement of goods and services relating to any Home Team agency;
- (e) to manage and administer contracts to which any Home Team agency is party so as to ensure that contractual obligations and activities are performed by all parties to the contract;
- (f) to establish and manage any framework contract connected with or related to science and technology in relation to forensic purposes or public security purposes, for the benefit of any Home Team agency or organisation in the Singapore public sector;
- (g) to design and develop security systems and provide systems design services for the benefit of the Singapore public sector;
- (h) to perform such other functions as may be conferred on the Agency by any other Act.

(2) In performing the functions conferred on the Agency by subsection (1), the Agency is to have regard to —

- (a) efficiency and economy;
- (b) the potential impact or benefit of scientific or technological advances on the operations of any Home Team agency; and
- (c) the evolving nature of criminal activities in and security threats to Singapore.

(3) In addition to the functions conferred by this section, the Agency may undertake such other functions as the Minister may assign to the Agency by notification in the *Gazette*, and in so undertaking —

- (a) the Agency is deemed to be fulfilling the purposes of this Act; and
- (b) the provisions of this Act apply to the Agency in respect of those other functions and duties.

(4) Nothing in this section imposes on the Agency, directly or indirectly, any form of duty or liability enforceable by proceedings before any court to which the Agency would not otherwise be subject.

### **Powers of Agency**

6.—(1) The Agency has power to do all things necessary or expedient to be done for, or in connection with, the performance of its functions.

(2) Without limiting subsection (1), the powers of the Agency include the following:

- (a) to enter into contracts, agreements or arrangements for itself, or on behalf of the Government in relation to any Home Team agency;
- (b) to establish and manage framework contracts for the benefit of any Home Team agency or organisation in the Singapore public sector;
- (c) to acquire, develop, hold and dispose of real or personal property;



- (d) to appoint and act through agents;
- (e) to employ staff and engage consultants;
- (f) to publish or provide any information, or publish or sponsor the publication of works;
- (g) to apply for, obtain and hold, whether on its own behalf or jointly with any other person, any intellectual property rights;
- (h) to enter into agreements or arrangements for the commercial exploitation of those intellectual property rights, whether by assignment, licensing or otherwise;
- (i) with the approval of the Minister, to form or join in the formation of a company, association, trust or partnership or enter into a joint venture with any person;
- (j) to be a member of a company, association, trust or partnership;
- (k) to provide financial incentives, support, grant, aid or assistance to any person;
- (l) to charge for the provision of goods or services, or the performance of work, by or on behalf of the Agency;
- (m) to waive the payment of fees and charges payable to the Agency;
- (n) to accept gifts, grants, bequests and devises made to the Agency, and act as trustee of money and other property vested in the Agency on trust;
- (o) to provide technical, consultancy or advisory services to the Government or any other person in Singapore or overseas on any matter related to, or connected with, a forensic purpose or public security purpose;
- (p) to collect, compile, analyse and disseminate information of a statistical nature or otherwise concerning matters relating to its functions;
- (q) to provide scholarships and training grants in the field of science and technology;

(*r*) to do any other thing that is incidental or conducive to the performance of its functions.

(3) To avoid doubt, subsection (1) does not limit any other power given to the Agency by any other provision in this Act or by any other Act.

(4) The Agency may exercise its powers inside or outside Singapore.

(5) To avoid doubt, nothing in this Act is to be construed as preventing the exercise of any power or discharge of any function of the Transport Safety Investigation Bureau of Singapore established by section 8(1) of the Transport Safety Investigations Act 2018 (Act 36 of 2018).

### **Directions of Minister, etc.**

7.—(1) The Minister may give to the Agency any direction under section 5 of the Public Sector (Governance) Act 2018.

(2) To avoid doubt, the Minister is entitled —

(*a*) to have information in the possession of the Agency; and

(*b*) where the information is in or on a document, to have, and make and retain copies of, that document.

(3) For the purposes of subsection (2), the Minister may request the Agency —

(*a*) to provide information to the Minister; or

(*b*) to give the Minister access to information.

(4) The Agency must comply with a request under subsection (3).

(5) In this section —

“document” includes any tape, disc or other device or medium on which information is recorded or stored;

“information” means information specified, or of a description specified, by the Minister that relates to the functions of the Agency.

**Agency's symbol, etc.**

**8.—**(1) The Agency has the exclusive right to the use of one or more symbols or representations as the Agency may select or devise (each called in this section the Agency's symbol or representation), and to display or exhibit those symbols or representations in connection with the Agency's activities or affairs.

(2) A person who —

(a) uses, without the prior written permission of the Agency, a symbol or representation identical to the Agency's symbol or representation; or

(b) uses a symbol or representation that so resembles the Agency's symbol or representation as to deceive or cause confusion, or to be likely to deceive or to cause confusion,

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both.

**PART 3****CONSTITUTION AND MEMBERSHIP OF AGENCY***Division 1 — Appointment, resignation and removal***Membership of Agency**

**9.—**(1) The Agency consists of at least 8 and not more than 20 members.

(2) One of the members (who is not the Chairperson) may be the Chief Executive.

**Appointment of Agency members**

**10.—**(1) Each member of the Agency is to be appointed by the Minister.

(2) Every appointment must be made by instrument in writing given to the member.

- (3) The instrument must state —
- (a) the term of the appointment; and
  - (b) the date the appointment takes effect, which must not be a date earlier than the date the instrument is received by the member.

### **Membership disqualification**

**11.—**(1) In appointing members of the Agency, the Minister must have regard to whether the members of the Agency will collectively possess the appropriate knowledge, skills and experience to assist the Agency to perform its functions effectively.

(2) However, the following individuals are disqualified from being a member of the Agency:

- (a) an undischarged bankrupt or an individual who has an arrangement with any of his or her creditors;
- (b) a Judge or judicial officer;
- (c) an individual who has been sentenced to imprisonment for a term of 6 months or more, and has not received a free pardon;
- (d) an individual who is —
  - (i) disqualified under section 154(1) of the Companies Act 1967 from acting as a director, or taking part (whether directly or indirectly) in the management, of a company during the period of disqualification in that section; or
  - (ii) disqualified from being a director or in any way, whether directly or indirectly, being concerned in, or from taking part in, the management of a company by a court order under section 149(1), 149A(1) or 154(2) of the Companies Act 1967 during the period of disqualification in the court order;
- (e) an individual who lacks capacity in respect of his or her duties as a member within the meaning of the Mental Capacity Act 2008, or in respect of whom an order is made

under section 10 of the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) Act 2008.

### **Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson**

**12.—**(1) The Minister may, by instrument in writing, appoint —

- (a) a member (other than the Chief Executive) to be the Chairperson of the Agency for such period as is specified in the instrument; and
- (b) one or more members (other than the Chairperson) to be a Deputy Chairperson of the Agency for such period as is specified in the instrument.

(2) The Chairperson or a Deputy Chairperson holds office until whichever of the following first happens:

- (a) his or her term of office as Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson (as the case may be) expires;
- (b) he or she ceases to hold office as a member of the Agency;
- (c) the Minister terminates the appointment as Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson, as the case may be.

(3) A Deputy Chairperson has and may exercise all of the functions and powers of the Chairperson in relation to a matter if —

- (a) the Chairperson is unavailable; or
- (b) the Chairperson is interested in the matter (within the meaning given by Part 4 of the Public Sector (Governance) Act 2018).

### **Premature vacancies**

**13.—**(1) If a premature vacancy occurs in the office of any member of the Agency, the Minister may, subject to sections 9, 10 and 11, appoint an individual to fill the vacancy and hold that office for the remainder of the term for which the vacating member was appointed.

(2) In this section, “premature vacancy”, for an office, means a vacancy that occurs in that office by virtue of section 20(1) or for any reason other than the expiry of the term of office.

**Acting Chairperson and members**

**14.**—(1) The Minister may appoint an individual to act temporarily as the Chairperson during any period, or during all periods, when the Chairperson —

- (a) is absent from duty or Singapore; or
- (b) is, for any reason, unable to perform the duties of the office.

(2) The Minister may appoint an individual to act temporarily as a member of the Agency (other than the Chairperson) during any period, or during all periods, when the member —

- (a) is absent from duty or Singapore; or
- (b) is, for any reason, unable to perform the duties of the office.

(3) An individual is ineligible for appointment under this section to act as the Chairperson or a member of the Agency if the individual is disqualified under section 11(2) for appointment as a member.

**Removal of member**

**15.**—(1) The Minister may, at any time and without giving any reason, remove a member of the Agency from office.

(2) Every removal under subsection (1) must be made by written notice given to the member with a copy to the Agency.

(3) The notice must state the date the removal takes effect, which must not be a date earlier than the date the notice is received by the member.

**Resignation from office**

**16.**—(1) A member of the Agency may resign his or her office by written notice to the Minister (with a copy to the Agency) signed by the member.

(2) The resignation is effective when the notice in subsection (1) is received by the Minister or at any later time specified in the notice.

**Validity of acts, etc.**

**17.**—(1) Despite section 33 of the Interpretation Act 1965, the exercise of any power or performance of any function of the Agency by the Agency is not affected merely because at the relevant time —

- (a) there was a vacancy in the membership of the Agency, including a vacancy arising from the failure to appoint a member;
- (b) there was some defect or irregularity existing in the appointment or continuance in office of the individual purporting to be a member of the Agency; or
- (c) there was an irregularity in the Agency’s decision-making procedure that does not affect the merits of the decision made.

(2) The acts of an individual as a member of the Agency are not affected merely because —

- (a) there was some defect or irregularity existing in the appointment or continuance in office of the individual purporting to be a member of the Agency; or
- (b) in the case of an individual acting in the capacity of the Chairperson, member or Chief Executive, the occasion for the individual so acting, or for his or her appointment, had not arisen or had ended.

*Division 2 — Terms and conditions for members***Term of appointment**

**18.**—(1) Subject to section 20, each member of the Agency holds office for a period of 3 years or any shorter period specified in the instrument of appointment.

(2) A member of the Agency may be re-appointed.

**Remuneration, etc.**

**19.** The members of the Agency may be paid, out of the funds of the Agency, such salaries, fees and allowances as the Minister determines.

**Vacation of office**

**20.**—(1) A member of the Agency ceases to hold office if he or she —

- (a) dies;
- (b) is adjudicated a bankrupt or makes an arrangement with any of his or her creditors;
- (c) becomes otherwise disqualified from being a member under section 11(2);
- (d) is removed from office in accordance with section 15;
- (e) resigns in accordance with section 16;
- (f) fails, without reasonable cause, to disclose any interest required under Division 1 of Part 4 of the Public Sector (Governance) Act 2018 and a notice is given under that Act to the Minister about that default;
- (g) fails to attend 3 consecutive meetings of the Agency without the approval of the Agency; or
- (h) is not re-appointed when his or her term of office expires.

(2) A member of the Agency is not entitled to any compensation or other payment or benefit relating to his or her ceasing, for any reason, to hold office as a member.

**PART 4****DECISION-MAKING BY AGENCY***Division 1 — Meetings***Procedure generally**

**21.** Subject to this Act and the Public Sector (Governance) Act 2018, the members of the Agency may regulate their own proceedings and business.

**Notice of meetings**

**22.**—(1) The Agency must hold such meetings as are necessary for the performance of its functions.



(2) The Chairperson must appoint the times and places of the meetings of the Agency, and cause notice of those meetings to be given to each member, including those not present when the appointment is made.

(3) The meetings of the Agency must be held in accordance with the provisions of this Act and Part 4 of the Public Sector (Governance) Act 2018.

### **Quorum**

**23.—**(1) The quorum is the number that is one-third the number of members of the Agency.

(2) No business may be transacted at a meeting of the Agency if a quorum is not present.

### **Presiding at meetings**

**24.—**(1) At a meeting of the Agency, the following person presides:

- (a) if there is a Chairperson and he or she is present and is not interested (within the meaning given by Part 4 of the Public Sector (Governance) Act 2018) in the matter — the Chairperson;
- (b) if there is no Chairperson, or the Chairperson is not present or is interested (within the meaning given by Part 4 of the Public Sector (Governance) Act 2018) in the matter, and a Deputy Chairperson who is not so interested in the matter is present — the Deputy Chairperson;
- (c) in any other case, the member of the Agency elected from among themselves to preside.

(2) The Deputy Chairperson or member mentioned in subsection (1)(b) or (c) may exercise all the powers and functions of the Chairperson for the purposes of the meeting.

### **Voting at meetings**

**25.—**(1) Each member of the Agency has one vote.

(2) In addition to his or her general vote, the member presiding at a meeting has, in the case of an equality of votes, a casting vote.

(3) A resolution of the Agency is passed if it is agreed by all members present without dissent, or if a majority of the members who are entitled to vote on the matter cast votes in favour of it.

(4) A member present at a meeting of the Agency is presumed to have agreed to, and to have voted in favour of, a resolution of the Agency unless he or she expressly dissents from or votes against the resolution at the meeting or is prevented from voting by section 26 of the Public Sector (Governance) Act 2018.

### **Execution of documents**

**26.**—(1) The Agency must have a seal.

(2) The seal of the Agency is to be kept and used as authorised by the Agency.

(3) A document is duly executed by the Agency if —

(a) the seal of the Agency is affixed to the document in the presence of one of its members who must sign the document to attest that the seal was so affixed, and the document is signed —

(i) by any 2 members generally or specially authorised by the Agency for the purpose; or

(ii) by one member and the Chief Executive; or

(b) the document is signed on behalf of the Agency by a person or persons authorised to do so by the Agency and in accordance with the terms of that authorisation.

(4) A document purporting to be executed in accordance with this section is presumed to be duly executed until the contrary is shown.

(5) All courts, judges and persons acting judicially must take judicial notice of the imprint of the seal of the Agency appearing on a document.

(6) When a document is produced bearing a seal purporting to be the seal of the Agency, it must be presumed that the seal is the seal of the Agency until the contrary is shown.

### *Division 2 — Committees*

#### **Appointment of committees**

**27.**—(1) The Agency may, by resolution, appoint such number of committees as the Agency thinks fit for purposes which, in the opinion of the Agency, would be better regulated and managed by means of such committees.

(2) A committee appointed under this section may consist of such number of individuals as the Agency thinks fit, and may include individuals who are not members of the Agency.

(3) Without limiting subsection (1), the Agency may appoint committees —

(a) to advise the Agency on any matters relating to the Agency's functions and powers that are referred to the committee by the Agency; or

(b) to perform or exercise any of the Agency's functions and powers that are delegated to the committee, if the committee includes at least one member of the Agency.

(4) An individual may not be appointed as a member of a committee unless, before appointment, he or she discloses to the Agency the details of any interest (within the meaning given by Part 4 of the Public Sector (Governance) Act 2018) the individual may have if he or she were a member of that committee.

#### **Proceedings of committees**

**28.**—(1) Section 17 applies to a committee, and to committee members or individuals purporting to be committee members, with the necessary modifications.

(2) Subject to this Act and the Public Sector (Governance) Act 2018, a committee may regulate its own proceedings and business.

## PART 5

## PERSONNEL MATTERS

**Appointment of Chief Executive**

**29.**—(1) There must be a Chief Executive of the Agency, whose appointment, removal, discipline and promotion must be in accordance with the Public Sector (Governance) Act 2018.

(2) The Agency may, subject to the Public Sector (Governance) Act 2018, appoint an individual to act temporarily as the Chief Executive during any period, or during all periods, when the Chief Executive —

- (a) is absent from duty or Singapore; or
- (b) is, for any reason, unable to perform the duties of the office.

**Officers, etc.**

**30.** The Agency may, subject to the Public Sector (Governance) Act 2018, appoint and employ, on such terms and conditions as the Agency may determine, such other officers, employees, consultants and agents as may be necessary for the effective performance of its functions.

**Preservation of secrecy**

**31.**—(1) A member of the Agency, an employee of the Agency, the Chief Executive or a committee member, who has information in his or her capacity as such that would not otherwise be available to him or her, must not intentionally or negligently disclose that information to any person except —

- (a) in the performance of the Agency's functions;
- (b) with the prior authorisation from the Agency to do so;
- (c) for the purposes of any proceedings for an offence under this Act, or any report of those proceedings;
- (d) as required by an order of court;

- (e) in complying with the requirements in this Act for members to disclose interests; or
- (f) as required of or allowed by the Agency, the Chief Executive, the member or employee of the Agency or the committee member, by or under this Act or any other Act.

(2) A person who contravenes subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$2,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

### **Protection from personal liability**

**32.** No liability shall lie against any member, any committee member, the Chief Executive or any employee of the Agency, or any other person acting under the direction of the Agency, for anything which is done or purported to be done, or omitted to be done, in good faith and with reasonable care in —

- (a) the exercise or purported exercise of any power of the Agency; or
- (b) the performance or purported performance of any function of the Agency.

## PART 6

### FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

#### **Financial year**

**33.** The financial year of the Agency begins on 1 April of each year and ends on 31 March of the succeeding year except that the first financial year of the Agency begins on 1 December 2019 and ends on 31 March 2020.

#### **Revenue and property of Agency**

**34.** The funds and property of the Agency include —

- (a) all moneys paid to the Agency by way of grants, subsidies, donations, gifts and contributions for the purposes of the Agency;

- (b) all moneys paid to, and all other moneys and property lawfully received by, the Agency for the purposes of the Agency;
- (c) all fees and charges payable to the Agency under this Act or any other Act administered by the Agency;
- (d) all moneys, dividends, royalties, interest or income received from any transaction made pursuant to the powers of the Agency under this Act or any other Act administered by the Agency;
- (e) all moneys borrowed by the Agency under this Act; and
- (f) all accumulations of income derived from any property or money mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (e).

### **Bank accounts**

**35.**—(1) The Agency must open and maintain one or more accounts with such bank or banks as the Agency thinks fit.

(2) Every such account may only be operated by a person who is authorised to do so by the Agency.

### **Financial accounts and records**

**36.** The Agency must —

- (a) keep proper accounts and records of its transactions and affairs; and
- (b) do all things necessary to ensure that —
  - (i) all payments out of its moneys are correctly made and properly authorised; and
  - (ii) adequate control is maintained over the property and assets of, or in the custody of, the Agency and over the expenditure incurred by the Agency.

### **Power of investment**

**37.** The Agency may invest its moneys in accordance with the standard investment power of statutory bodies as defined in section 33A of the Interpretation Act 1965.

**Issue of shares, etc.**

**38.** As a consequence of —

- (a) the vesting of any property, rights or liabilities in the Agency under this Act; or
- (b) any capital injection or other investment by the Government in the Agency in accordance with any other written law,

the Agency must issue such shares or other securities to the Minister for Finance as that Minister may direct.

**Borrowing power**

**39.—**(1) The Agency cannot raise loans for the performance of its functions under this Act or any other Act administered by the Agency except in accordance with this section.

(2) Subject to subsection (3), the Agency may raise loans by —

- (a) mortgage, overdraft or other means, with or without security;
- (b) charge, whether legal or equitable, on any property vested in the Agency or on any other revenue receivable by the Agency under this Act or any other written law; or
- (c) the creation and issue of debentures, bonds or any other instrument as the Minister may approve.

(3) The Agency may raise loans —

- (a) from the Government; or
- (b) with the approval of the Minister, from another source, whether within or outside Singapore.

(4) For the purposes of this section, the power to raise loans includes the power to make any financial agreement under which credit facilities are granted to the Agency for the purchase of goods, materials or things.

## PART 7

## GENERAL

**Offences by corporations**

**40.**—(1) Where, in a proceeding for an offence under this Act, it is necessary to prove the state of mind of a corporation in relation to a particular conduct, evidence that —

(a) an officer, employee or agent of the corporation engaged in that conduct within the scope of his or her actual or apparent authority; and

(b) the officer, employee or agent had that state of mind,  
is evidence that the corporation had that state of mind.

(2) Where a corporation commits an offence under this Act, a person —

(a) who is —

(i) an officer of the corporation; or

(ii) an individual involved in the management of the corporation and in a position to influence the conduct of the corporation in relation to the commission of the offence; and

(b) who —

(i) consented or connived, or conspired with others, to effect the commission of the offence;

(ii) is in any other way, whether by act or omission, knowingly concerned in, or is party to, the commission of the offence by the corporation; or

(iii) knew or ought reasonably to have known that the offence by the corporation (or an offence of the same type) would be or is being committed, and failed to take all reasonable steps to prevent or stop the commission of that offence,

shall be guilty of that same offence as is the corporation, and shall be liable on conviction to be punished accordingly.



(3) A person mentioned in subsection (2) may rely on a defence that would be available to the corporation if it were charged with the offence with which the person is charged and, in doing so, the person bears the same burden of proof that the corporation would bear.

(4) To avoid doubt, this section does not affect the application of —

(a) Chapters 5 and 5A of the Penal Code 1871; or

(b) the Evidence Act 1893 or any other law or practice regarding the admissibility of evidence.

(5) To avoid doubt, subsection (2) also does not affect the liability of the corporation for an offence under this Act, and applies whether or not the corporation is convicted of the offence.

(6) In this section —

“corporation” includes a limited liability partnership within the meaning of section 2(1) of the Limited Liability Partnerships Act 2005;

“officer”, in relation to a corporation, means any director, partner, chief executive, manager, secretary or other similar officer of the corporation, and includes —

(a) any person purporting to act in any such capacity; and

(b) for a corporation whose affairs are managed by its members, any of those members as if the member were a director of the corporation;

“state of mind” of a person includes —

(a) the knowledge, intention, opinion, belief or purpose of the person; and

(b) the person’s reasons for the intention, opinion, belief or purpose.

### **Offences by unincorporated associations or partnerships**

**41.—**(1) Where, in a proceeding for an offence under this Act, it is necessary to prove the state of mind of an unincorporated association or a partnership in relation to a particular conduct, evidence that —

- (a) an employee or agent of the unincorporated association or partnership engaged in that conduct within the scope of his or her actual or apparent authority; and
- (b) the employee or agent had that state of mind,

is evidence that the unincorporated association or partnership had that state of mind.

(2) Where an unincorporated association or a partnership commits an offence under this Act, a person —

- (a) who is —
  - (i) an officer of the unincorporated association or a member of its governing body;
  - (ii) a partner in the partnership; or
  - (iii) an individual involved in the management of the unincorporated association or partnership and in a position to influence the conduct of the unincorporated association or partnership (as the case may be) in relation to the commission of the offence; and
- (b) who —
  - (i) consented or connived, or conspired with others, to effect the commission of the offence;
  - (ii) is in any other way, whether by act or omission, knowingly concerned in, or is party to, the commission of the offence by the unincorporated association or partnership; or
  - (iii) knew or ought reasonably to have known that the offence by the unincorporated association or partnership (or an offence of the same type) would be or is being committed, and failed to take all reasonable steps to prevent or stop the commission of that offence,

shall be guilty of the same offence as is the unincorporated association or partnership (as the case may be), and shall be liable on conviction to be punished accordingly.

(3) A person mentioned in subsection (2) may rely on a defence that would be available to the unincorporated association or partnership if it were charged with the offence with which the person is charged and, in doing so, the person bears the same burden of proof that the unincorporated association or partnership would bear.

(4) To avoid doubt, this section does not affect the application of —

(a) Chapters 5 and 5A of the Penal Code 1871; or

(b) the Evidence Act 1893 or any other law or practice regarding the admissibility of evidence.

(5) To avoid doubt, subsection (2) also does not affect the liability of an unincorporated association or a partnership for an offence under this Act, and applies whether or not the unincorporated association or partnership is convicted of the offence.

(6) In this section —

“officer”, in relation to an unincorporated association (other than a partnership), means the president, the secretary, or any member of the committee of the unincorporated association, and includes —

(a) any person holding a position analogous to that of president, secretary or member of a committee of the unincorporated association; and

(b) any person purporting to act in any such capacity;

“partner” includes a person purporting to act as a partner;

“state of mind” of a person includes —

(a) the knowledge, intention, opinion, belief or purpose of the person; and

(b) the person’s reasons for the intention, opinion, belief or purpose.

**Service of documents**

**42.**—(1) A document that is permitted or required by this Act to be served on a person may be served as described in this section.

(2) A document permitted or required by this Act to be served on an individual may be served —

- (a) by giving it to the individual personally;
- (b) by sending it by prepaid registered post to the address specified by the individual for the service of documents or, if no address is so specified, the individual's residential address or business address;
- (c) by leaving it at the individual's residential address with an adult apparently resident there, or at the individual's business address with an adult apparently employed there;
- (d) by affixing a copy of the document in a conspicuous place at the individual's residential address or business address;
- (e) by sending it by fax to the fax number last known to the person giving or serving the document as the fax number for the service of documents on the individual; or
- (f) by sending it by email to the individual's last email address.

(3) A document permitted or required by this Act to be served on a partnership (other than a limited liability partnership) may be served —

- (a) by giving it to any partner or other similar officer of the partnership;
- (b) by leaving it at, or by sending it by prepaid registered post to, the partnership's business address;
- (c) by sending it by fax to the fax number used at the partnership's business address; or
- (d) by sending it by email to the partnership's last email address.

(4) A document permitted or required by this Act to be served on a body corporate (including a limited liability partnership) may be served —

- (a) by giving it to the body corporate's secretary or other similar officer, or the limited liability partnership's manager;
- (b) by leaving it at, or by sending it by prepaid registered post to, the body corporate's registered office or principal office in Singapore;
- (c) by sending it by fax to the fax number used at the body corporate's registered office or principal office in Singapore; or
- (d) by sending it by email to the body corporate's last email address.

(5) Service of a document under subsection (1) takes effect —

- (a) if the document is sent by fax and a notification of successful transmission is received — on the day of transmission;
- (b) if the document is sent by email — at the time that the email becomes capable of being retrieved by the person to whom it is sent; and
- (c) if the document is sent by prepaid registered post — 2 days after the day the document was posted (even if it is returned undelivered).

(6) However, service of any document under this Act on a person by email may be effected only with the person's prior consent to service in that way.

(7) This section does not apply to documents to be served in proceedings in court.

(8) In this section —

“business address” means —

- (a) in the case of an individual — the individual's usual or last known place of business in Singapore; or

- (b) in the case of a partnership (other than a limited liability partnership) — the partnership’s principal or last known place of business in Singapore;

“document” includes a notice or an order permitted or required by this Act to be served;

“last email address” means —

- (a) the last email address given by the addressee concerned to the person giving or serving the document as the email address for the service of documents under this Act; or
- (b) the last email address of the addressee concerned known to the person giving or serving the document;

“residential address” means an individual’s usual or last known place of residence in Singapore.

## **Regulations**

**43.** The Agency may, with the approval of the Minister, make regulations prescribing matters required or permitted by this Act to be prescribed, or necessary or convenient to be prescribed for carrying out or giving effect to this Act.

## **PART 8**

### **TRANSFER OF UNDERTAKINGS TO AGENCY**

#### **Interpretation of this Part**

**44.** In this Part, unless the context otherwise requires —

“asset”, in relation to the transferor, means property of any kind (whether tangible or intangible, whether arising from, accruing under, created or evidenced by or the subject of, an instrument or otherwise and whether actual or contingent) of the transferor on the eve of the transfer date and includes, without limitation, any —

- (a) legal or equitable interest in real or personal property;
- (b) chose in action;

- (c) security;
- (d) money;
- (e) intellectual property;
- (f) infrastructure, plant and equipment;
- (g) records and information (including data) in any form;  
and
- (h) right;

“liability”, in relation to the transferor, means any liability, duty or obligation (whether actual or contingent, liquidated or unliquidated, and whether owed alone or jointly, or jointly and severally with any other person) of the transferor on the eve of the transfer date;

“records”, in relation to the transferor, means registers, papers, documents, minutes, receipts, books of account and other records, however compiled, recorded or stored, of the transferor existing on the eve of the transfer date;

“right”, in relation to the transferor, means any right, power, privilege or immunity of the transferor on the eve of the transfer date;

“transferor” means the Government;

“transferring employee” means any individual who, on the eve of the transfer date, is a public officer holding a post in the Science and Technology Group of the Ministry of Home Affairs, but does not include any individual whose name is on the list of excluded individuals approved by the Minister.

### **Transfer of undertakings to Agency**

**45.—**(1) On the transfer date, all assets and liabilities of the transferor that relate solely to the functions of the Science and Technology Group of the Ministry of Home Affairs are transferred to the Agency.

(2) When any assets or liabilities are transferred under subsection (1), the following provisions have effect:

- (a) the assets of the transferor that are the subject of the transfer vest in the Agency by virtue of this section and without the need for any further conveyance, transfer, assignment or assurance;
- (b) the liabilities of the transferor that are the subject of the transfer become by virtue of this section the liabilities of the Agency;
- (c) all legal or other proceedings relating to those assets or liabilities that are started before the transfer date by or against the transferor and pending immediately before that date are taken to be proceedings pending by or against the Agency;
- (d) any legal or other proceedings relating to those assets or liabilities which could have been started immediately before the transfer date by or against the transferor may be started by or against the Agency;
- (e) a judgment or order of a court or other tribunal obtained before the transfer date by or against the transferor relating to those assets or liabilities may be enforced by or against the Agency;
- (f) any document relating to legal or other proceedings relating to those assets or liabilities that has been served on or by the transferor before the transfer date is taken, where appropriate, to have been served on or by the Agency;
- (g) any act, matter or thing done or omitted to be done before the transfer date in relation to those assets or liabilities by, to or in respect of the transferor is (to the extent to which that act, matter or thing has any force or effect) taken to have been done or omitted by, to or in respect of the Agency;
- (h) a reference in any written law, in any instrument made under any Act, in any contract, agreement, arrangement or undertaking, or in any document of any kind to the transferor, to the extent to which the reference relates to



those assets or liabilities, is taken to be, or includes, a reference to the Agency.

- (3) The operation of this section does not —
- (a) constitute a breach of, or default under, an Act or other law, or otherwise a civil wrong or criminal wrong;
  - (b) constitute a breach of duty of confidence (whether arising by contract, in equity, by custom, or in any other way);
  - (c) constitute a breach of any contractual provision prohibiting, restricting or regulating the assignment or transfer of assets or liabilities or the disclosure of any information;
  - (d) terminate an agreement or obligation, or fulfil any condition that allows a person to terminate any agreement or obligation, or gives rise to any right or remedy in respect of any agreement or obligation;
  - (e) cause any contract or other instrument to be void or otherwise unenforceable;
  - (f) frustrate any contract;
  - (g) release a surety or other obligor or obligee wholly or in part from an obligation; or
  - (h) constitute an event of breach of, or default under, any contract or other instrument.
- (4) No attornment to the Agency by a lessee from the transferor is required for the purpose of this section.

### **Transferring secondments and employees to Agency**

- 46.—**(1) On the transfer date, every transferring employee —
- (a) stops being an employee of the transferor; and
  - (b) is each transferred to the service, and becomes an employee, of the Agency on terms no less favourable than those enjoyed by the employee on the eve of the transfer date.

- (2) The transfer of a transferring employee to the Agency —
- (a) does not interrupt continuity of service;
  - (b) does not constitute a retrenchment or redundancy; and
  - (c) does not entitle any employee so transferred to any payment or other benefit merely because he or she stops being employed by the transferor.
- (3) A certificate purporting to be signed by the Minister certifying that an individual named in the certificate has been transferred, with effect from the transfer date, by virtue of this section to the Agency, is admissible in evidence in any proceedings as evidence of the matters stated in it.
- (4) Nothing in this section prevents —
- (a) any of the terms and conditions of employment of an individual transferred under this section from being altered by or under any law, award or agreement with effect from any time after the transfer date; or
  - (b) an individual transferred under this section from resigning from the Agency at any time after the transfer date, in accordance with the terms and conditions of his or her employment then applicable.
- (5) To avoid doubt, section 18A of the Employment Act 1968 does not apply to the transfer under this Part of any transferring employee to the Agency.
- (6) On the transfer date, every public officer or employee of any other public body seconded to the Science and Technology Group of the Ministry of Home Affairs under either of the following that is in force on the eve of the transfer date, continues on secondment to the Agency:
- (a) an arrangement made by the transferor;
  - (b) an agreement or arrangement between the transferor and a public body.

**General preservation of employment terms**

**47.**—(1) The service with the Agency of an employee transferred under section 46 (called in this section a transferred employee) must be regarded for all purposes as having been continuous with the service of the employee with the transferor immediately before the transfer date.

(2) On the transfer date —

- (a) a transferred employee retains all accrued rights as if employment with the Agency were a continuation of employment with the transferor;
- (b) the liabilities of the transferor relating to the transferred employee's accrued rights to leave and superannuation become the liabilities of the Agency; and
- (c) a reference to the transferor in the contract of employment that had effect in relation to the transferred employee immediately before the transfer date is taken to be, or includes, a reference to the Agency.

(3) For any conduct of the transferred employee when he or she was employed by the transferor which would have rendered the employee liable to be reprimanded, reduced in rank, retired, dismissed or punished by the transferor, the Agency may —

- (a) start any disciplinary proceedings against that employee;
- (b) carry on and complete any disciplinary proceedings started by the transferor against the transferred employee if those proceedings are pending on the eve of the transfer date; and
- (c) reprimand, reduce in rank, retire, dismiss or otherwise punish a transferred employee, as if the employee were not transferred.

(4) Where, on the eve of the transfer date, any matter about the conduct of a transferred employee during his or her employment with the transferor —

- (a) was in the course of being heard or investigated by a committee of the transferor acting under due authority; or

- (b) had been heard or investigated by a committee of the transferor acting under due authority but no order, ruling or direction had been made,

that committee must complete the hearing or investigation and make such order, ruling or direction as it could have made under the authority vested in it before the transfer date, and that order, ruling or direction is to be regarded as an order, ruling or direction of the Agency.

(5) Until such time as conditions of employment are drawn up by the Agency for a transferred employee, the transferred employee is to be regarded as being employed by the Agency on the same conditions of his or her employment with the transferor on the eve of the transfer date.

(6) Any condition of employment relating to the length of service with the Agency must recognise the length of service of the employees so transferred while in the employment of the transferor (including any previous service of the employee taken to be service with the transferor) to be service with the Agency.

(7) Nothing in section 46(6) —

- (a) breaks the continuity of service of the public officer or employee of another public body whose secondment continues with the Agency because of that provision; or
- (b) affects any rights, powers or immunities that such a public officer or an employee of a public body has, or the extent to which such public officer or employee (as the case may be) is subject to obligations or liabilities in relation to discipline, by virtue of holding the office or position to which the public officer or employee is seconded.

### **Transfer of records**

**48.** On the transfer date, every record, or part of any record, of the transferor that relates to the following becomes the record of the Agency:

- (a) any asset or liability transferred to the Agency under section 45;

- (b) any transferring employee.

**Confirmation of transfer**

**49.**—(1) If any dispute arises —

- (a) as to whether an asset or a liability or a record is transferred under section 45 or 48; or
- (b) as to whether any, or any part of any, contract or document relates to an asset or a liability or a record, transferred under section 45 or 48,

the Minister for Finance may determine the matter and is to provide the concerned parties with written notice of that determination.

(2) The determination of the Minister for Finance under subsection (1) is final and binding on the transferor and the Agency.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY  
HOME TEAM SCIENCE AND  
TECHNOLOGY AGENCY ACT 2019

This Legislative History is a service provided by the Law Revision Commission on a best-efforts basis. It is not part of the Act.

**1. Act 21 of 2019 — Home Team Science and Technology Agency Act 2019**

Bill	:	15/2019
First Reading	:	8 July 2019
Second and Third Readings	:	6 August 2019
Commencement	:	1 December 2019

**2. 2020 Revised Edition — Home Team Science and  
Technology Agency Act 2019**

Operation	:	31 December 2021
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Abbreviations

C.P.	Council Paper
G.N. No. S (N.S.)	Government Notification Number Singapore (New Series)
G.N. No.	Government Notification Number
G.N. No. S	Government Notification Number Singapore
G.N. Sp. No. S	Government Notification Special Number Singapore
L.A.	Legislative Assembly
L.N.	Legal Notification (Federal/Malaysian Subsidiary Legislation)
M. Act	Malayan Act/Malaysia Act
M. Ordinance	Malayan Ordinance
Parl.	Parliament
S.S.G.G. (E) No.	Straits Settlements Government Gazette (Extraordinary) Number
S.S.G.G. No.	Straits Settlements Government Gazette Number

**COMPARATIVE TABLE**  
**HOME TEAM SCIENCE AND**  
**TECHNOLOGY AGENCY ACT 2019**

This Act has undergone renumbering in the 2020 Revised Edition. This Comparative Table is provided to help readers locate the corresponding provisions in the last Revised Edition.

<b>2020 Ed.</b>	<b>Act 21 of 2019</b>
<i>[Omitted as spent]</i>	<b>PART 9</b>
<i>[Omitted as having had effect]</i>	<b>50</b>
<i>[Omitted as having had effect]</i>	<b>51—(1)</b>
<i>[Omitted as having had effect]</i>	(2)
<i>[Omitted as having had effect]</i>	(3)
<i>[Omitted as having had effect]</i>	(4)
<i>[Omitted as having had effect]</i>	(5)
<i>[Omitted as having had effect]</i>	(6)
<i>[Omitted as spent]</i>	<b>52</b>