

Countermeasures of Foreign Interference (Countermeasures) Act (FICA)



The Foreign Interference (Countermeasures) Act will target foreign interference conducted through hostile information campaigns and local proxies.

Singaporeans continue to have the right to express their own views on political matters. FICA will not affect Singaporeans expressing their own views, unless they are acting as foreign agents.

Similarly, foreign individuals or publications reporting or commenting on Singapore's politics in an open, transparent and attributable way are not covered too.

1 Countering Hostile Information Campaigns (HICs) Effectively

To deal with foreign interference tactics, we need to be able to:



Obtain information on foreign influence operations

- Require social media services etc. to provide information to determine if HIC is present.



Prevent harmful online comms activity from taking place

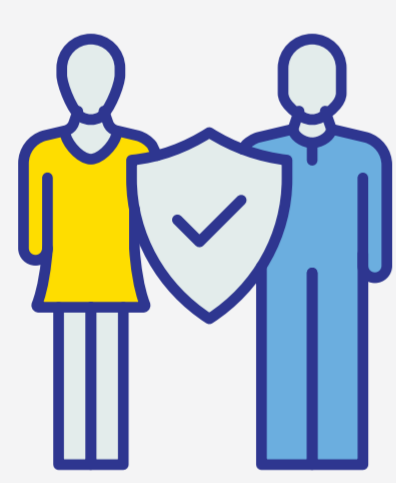
- Restrict accounts, suspected of being readied for use in a HIC, from communicating in Singapore.



Block harmful online comms activity from amplifying further

- Direct targeted takedowns of specific HIC content.
- Compel users, websites and social media platforms to broadcast the Government's response.
- Stop the further distribution of harmful apps in Singapore.
- Compel internet access services to block access to a website/service with HIC content, if there is non-compliance with the Government's directions.
- Order platforms to curtail the virality of HIC content, and/or stop or curtail internet access.
- Declare an online site that publishes HIC content as a proscribed online location, to stem their ability to mount further HICs against Singapore.

2 Safeguarding those who take part in our domestic politics & to deter foreign interference through these proxies



Identify individuals or non-individuals that may become targets of foreign influence

- Impose appropriate controls on identified individuals and non-individuals that are closely involved in our political processes, or advocate issues which may divide Singapore's social fabric.
- These individuals or organisations are known as Politically Significant Persons (PSPs).
- PSPs that are defined in FICA include political parties, Political Office Holders, Members of Parliament (including Non-Constituency MPs and Nominated MPs), Leader of the Opposition, Election Candidates and their Election Agents. Defined PSPs are directly involved in our political processes and will be subject to the most stringent controls.
- Other individuals and entities whose activities cross the thresholds articulated in FICA may be designated as PSPs, and be subject to countermeasures that are less stringent than those of defined PSPs at the start.
- The Competent Authority may issue step-up countermeasures if deemed necessary, such as if there is information that the PSP may be undertaking or is about to undertake activity on behalf of a foreign principal.



Ensure regular disclosure of relevant information from relevant individuals and non-individuals who may become proxies of foreign influence

- Regular disclosures from both defined and designated individuals/non-individuals to ensure transparency and deter interference.
- Disclosures can be related to donations, volunteers, leadership, membership and affiliations.