# Targeted Financial Sanctions

**Practical Guidance on Implementing Obligations under Part 3B of the Public Order Act**

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## I Introduction

1. The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has imposed financial sanctions on persons and entities who have been identified by the UNSC (or relevant UN Committees) as contributing to a particular threat to, or breach of, international peace and security. These measures are referred to as “targeted financial sanctions” as they are financial sanctions aimed at designated persons or entities as opposed to a country.
2. As a member of the United Nations, Fiji is committed to implementing the UNSC Resolutions on targeted financial sanctions related to terrorism and proliferation financing.
3. The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) recommends that countries implement TFS without delay to comply with the UNSC resolutions.
4. Fiji has implemented the UNSC Resolutions’ requirements on targeted financial sanctions in Part 3B of the Public Order Act.

## II Scope

5. The United Nations (UN) Sanctions Lists given effect under Part 3B of the Public Order Act include:
   i. ISIL (Da’esh) and Al Qaida (1267/1989/2253) Sanctions List,
   ii. Taliban (1988) Sanctions List,
   iii. DPRK (1718) Sanctions List and
   iv. Iran (1737/2231) Sanctions List.
6. These form part of the broader UNSC Consolidated List, which also contains sanction regimes not given effect under the Public Order Act and which do not give rise to obligations in Fiji.

## III Purpose

7. Covered businesses in Fiji are required under section 12W of the Public Order Act to apply targeted financial sanctions on designated[1] persons and entities linked to terrorism and proliferation financing. These obligations enable Fiji to comply with the UNSC resolutions related to the prevention of terrorism, terrorist financing and proliferation financing.
8. This Guidance does not create new legal obligations. Rather this Guidance is intended to assist covered businesses to better understand and meet their obligations under Part 3B of the Public Order Act.

## IV Definitions

9. ***Covered Businesses*** in this guidance refer to businesses, professions, and other entities that provide covered services under the Schedule to the Financial Transactions Reporting (FTR) Act.[2] These include:
   i. legal practitioners;
   ii. real estate agents;
   iii. accountants;
   iv. dealers in precious metals and stones; and
   v. trust and company service providers.
10. ***Targeted financial sanctions*** include measures to freeze assets (including funds, property) and prohibitions to prevent funds or other assets from being made available, directly or indirectly, for the benefit of designated persons and entities.[3]

[1] The Public Order Act refers to designated persons and entities as “specified entities”
[2] Schedule of the FTR Act
[3] FATF Recommendation

11. ***Property*** includes money, goods, choses in action, land and every description of property, whether movable or immovable; and obligations, easements and every description of estate, interest and profit, present or future, vested or contingent, arising out of or incident to property as herein defined.[4]

12. The definitions of "asset" and "fund" are encompassed within the definition of property.

13. Property may include real estate, vehicles, equipment, intellectual property, cash, investment funds, financial instruments, loan portfolios, securities holdings, commodities to name a few.

## V List of Persons and Entities Designated for Targeted Financial Sanctions

14. The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) maintains a list of names of persons, entities and organisations who have been designated for financial sanctions due to their involvement or links to terrorism or proliferation financing.

    i. **For terrorism and terrorist financing** targeted financial sanctions, covered businesses should refer to the ***ISIL/Da'esh and Al-Qaida Sanctions List and the Taliban Sanctions List.***

    ii. **For proliferation financing** targeted financial sanctions, covered businesses should refer to the ***DPRK (North Korea), and Iran Sanctions Lists***.

15. Fiji also maintains a Local List of persons and entities that have been declared by the Fiji Courts to be "specified entities" and should be subject to financial sanctions due to their involvement or links with terrorism or proliferation financing.[5] This is referred to as the ***Local List***.

16. The UN Sanctions List and Local List is updated frequently, with names added (new designations) or removed (revocation of designations) from the list, sometimes with immediate effect.

17. The Fiji Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) will notify covered businesses of any updates (addition or removal) to the UN Sanctions List and Local List through an email to the AML Compliance Officers or nominated officers.

18. The FIU website maintains the Local List and also provides website links to the UN Sanctions List which is maintained by the relevant UN Sanctions Committee.

Links to the relevant sanctions lists on the FIU Website:

- Local List - Fiji Financial Intelligence Unit - Fiji Sanctions - Local List
- UN Sanctions List for Terrorism and Proliferation Financing including updates - Fiji Financial Intelligence Unit - UNSC - List of Designated Individuals and Entities

## VI Monitoring and Screening of Clients against the UN Sanctions List and Local List (Sanctions List)

19. To meet its obligations under the Public Order Act, a financial institution must continuously monitor or screen its client listing to determine if a client is included on the UN Sanctions List or Local List. This is to determine if the financial institution is in possession or control of funds, property or any assets of a designated person or entity.

20. The requirement to monitor and screen clients is not a standalone obligation but is integrated with, and forms part of, the broader obligations under the Financial Transactions Reporting Act.

21. **Best Practice:** Covered businesses should implement appropriate measures to identify and monitor relationships, transactions, funds, property, assets, and accounts linked to designated persons or entities. These measures should extend to joint ownership arrangements, co-

[4] As per the Interpretation Act 1967.
[5] Public Order Act, s12P

purchasers, co-vendors, trustees, nominees, and any other parties involved in a transaction or arrangement where a designated person or entity may have a direct or indirect interest, ownership, or control.

**Client Screening for TFS**

Covered businesses can conduct screening of their clients at multiple key points as follows:

i. Onboarding of new client;
ii. Ongoing/continuous screening to determine if existing clients have been added to the sanctions list;
iii. Trigger events such as change in client details;
iv. Period review which can be scheduled;
v. Before providing services; and/or
vi. Receiving adverse information or alerts

***Example: John Doe designated and added to the UN Sanctions List***

The FIU sends an update to the UN sanctions lists to all covered businesses, which identifies that "John Doe" has been designated and added to the UN Sanctions List.

**Step 1:** The legal practitioner or real estate agent receives the FIU update and screens its client listing, against the name "John Doe".

## VII Verifying Positive Name Matches

22. If there is a "**positive name**" match meaning that the name of a client potentially matches the name of a person or entity on the UN Sanctions List or Local List, a financial institution must take reasonable steps to verify that the positive name match is a *"***true positive***"* and that the client is indeed a designated person or entity.

23. This is to identify and eliminate "**false positive**" situations where a potential name match is not linked to a designated person or entity. This may due to the common nature of the client's name,

24. Further verification measures may include using secondary data (such as in the case of a person his/her *date of birth, place of birth, nationality*, and in the case of an entity, the *entity's address and other information)* and verifying this against information on the UN Sanctions List or Local List.

25. This verification process is prioritised, completed and reported without delay (within 24 hours) to ensure that financial sanctions are applied if needed. This verification is also critical to ensure that a "false positive" match does not result in a client mistakenly having their property or funds frozen.

**Verifying a True Positive Match**

In addition to the name of a designated person or entity, the UN Sanctions List also provides other identifying information such as Title; Designation; Date of birth; Place of birth; Nationality; Passport number; National identification number; Address; and/or other information.

***Example: Verifying if John Doe is a True Positive Match***

A client named "John Doe" is flagged during screening as matching the "name" of a person listed in the UN Sanctions List.

**Step 2:** The legal practitioner or real estate agent checks and determines if the current client "John Doe" is the same individual listed in the UN sanctions list by verifying the client's secondary data and information.

- **False Positive** – John Doe's date of birth and nationality does not match.

- **True Positive** – John Doe’s date of birth, nationality and address matches.

## VIII Applying Targeted Financial Sanctions

26. Where there is a ***true positive*** match with a person or entity listed on the UN Sanctions List or Local List, a financial institution must comply with its obligations under section 12W of the Public Order Act to freeze all property or transactions.

27. This means that a financial institution must immediately[6] and without delay and without prior notice to the person or entity concerned:

a) freeze any property, funds or accounts owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by the designated person or entity;
b) freeze any funds derived from property owned or controlled, directly or indirectly by a designated person or entity;
c) prohibit any transaction related to property or funds owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by the designated person or entity;
d) prohibit access to any property or any financial or related service, directly or indirectly, for the benefit of the designated person or entity.

**True Positive Match – Immediate TFS Actions**

Examples of applying targeted financial sanctions by different covered businesses are as follows:

- A legal practitioner must freeze any client funds held in trust accounts and not facilitate trust arrangements, company formations or asset transfers.
- A real estate agent must freeze rental income and not facilitate the purchase or sale of properties for or on behalf of the client.

***Example: Applying TFS immediately for John Doe***

Once John Doe was verified and confirmed as a “true positive” match, the legal practitioner or real estate agent must immediately apply targeted financial sanctions.

**Step 3:** The legal practitioner will freeze all of John Doe’s funds in their trust accounts and not facilitate any other service or transaction.

The real estate agent will not facilitate John Doe’s sale transactions.

## IX Reporting of Property or Funds of Designated Persons or Entities

28. Under the section 12W of the Public Order Act, a financial institution must report to the Fiji Police Force if:[7]

a) a person or entity is a “true positive” match for a name on the UN Sanctions List or Local List and
b) the financial institution holds or controls any funds, property or assets that belong to, are owned or controlled by, or are held on behalf of, a designated person or entity.

29. To facilitate this reporting process, a financial institution must immediately, and in any event no later than 24 hours, submit this report through the FIU using the report template provided in Annex 1. The report is to be submitted to the FIU via email to fijifiu-intel@rbf.gov.fj with the following information:

a) Name and other details of client for whom a “true positive’ match was identified to the UN Sanctions List or Local List;

[6] Public Order Act, s12W
[7] Public Order Act, s12V

b) Description of the nature and value of the property or funds in its possession or control that it believes is owned or controlled by or on behalf of the designated person or entity;

c) Details of the transaction or proposed transaction related to the property or funds in b) above.

30. This reporting requirement is separate from the suspicious transaction reporting under the FTR Act, as each regime serves a separate legal purpose and applies different thresholds for reporting.

**Reporting of True Positive Matches**

Covered businesses submit details of these confirmed matches in a report to the FIU, who will facilitate immediate disclosure to the Fiji Police Force.

***Example: Reporting of John Doe and his Assets and Properties***

**Step 4:** Following a confirmed true positive match and freezing of assets, funds or property, the legal practitioner or real estate agent submits a report to the FIU within 24 hours. The report includes client details; nature and value of funds/assets; details of attempted transactions and other details as required in the reporting form.

The above actions must be taken **immediately and without prior notice** to John Doe**.** The FIU will ensure immediate disclosure to the Fiji Police Force.

## X Duration of Freeze on Property and Delisting Mechanisms

31. Funds, property, and assets subject to a freeze must remain frozen until the name of the designated person or entity is removed from the relevant UN Sanctions List or Local List.

32. The FIU will inform covered businesses of any removal of names from the UN Sanctions List or the Local List. Furthermore, the UN Sanctions Committee will automatically update its Sanctions List on its website each time a name is removed or added.

33. When a client becomes aware that they cannot access their funds, property, or complete a transaction, they may contact you for the reason. You may then inform the client that their account, property, or transaction has been frozen, blocked or services not provided in compliance with sanctions obligations under the Public Order Act.

***Example: John Doe enquires with the covered businesses when services are not being provided***

A practical wording for a response to John Doe could be:

"We are not facilitating or providing any services in accordance with applicable United Nations sanctions obligations and section 12W of the Public Order Act. We are prohibited from providing our services unless permitted under applicable sanctions exemptions."

34. For any client who is subjected to financial sanctions, the covered businesses may refer that client to the FIU website for information on the procedures and mechanisms available for seeking delisting and for applying to unfreeze funds or other assets, where applicable. Link to the UN and local de-listing mechanisms Fiji Financial Intelligence Unit - De-Listing and Access to Frozen Funds or Other Assets

## XI Internal Policies and Procedures on Implementing Targeted Financial Sanctions

35. **Best Practice:** Covered businesses are encouraged to adopt risk-based policies, procedures, and systems for the ongoing screening of clients and transactions against the UN Sanctions List and the Local List. These controls should support the timely detection of potential matches and the effective implementation of asset-freezing measures.

36. A summary flowchart of the targeted financial sanctions process is provided in Annex 2 for further reference.

## XII Penalties for Non-Compliance

37. A failure to apply targeted financial sanctions on a designated person or entity or failure to report on property owned or controlled by or on behalf of a designated person or entity may result in penalties under sections 12V and 12W of the Public Order Act which includes a fine not exceeding $150,000 or a term of imprisonment not exceeding 20 years, or to both.

## XIII Queries and Clarifications

38. For further clarifications relating to obligations under the Public Order Act on targeted financial sanctions, covered businesses can contact the FIU Policy & Compliance team on phone 3223 333 or email address: fijifiu-compliance@rbf.gov.fj.

**Financial Intelligence Unit**
**16 July 2026**

## Annex 1: Template Report for Reporting Property or Funds of Designated Persons or Entities

**PART I: INFORMATION ABOUT THE DESIGNATED PERSON OR ENTITY**

| **A. Details of the Designated Person (Natural Person)** | |
|---|---|
| 1. Surname of Individual | |
| 2. First Name of Individual | |
| 3. Other Name(s) | |
| 4. Date of Birth | |
| 5. Address | |
| 6. Nationality | |
| 7. Method used to verify identity:<br>i. Source document<br>ii. Number<br>iii. Date of issue<br>iv. Date of expiry | |

| **B. Details of the Designated Entity** | |
|---|---|
| 1. Full name of Entity | |
| 2. Address | |
| 3. Date of incorporation/registration | |

**PART II: INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROPERTY/FUNDS OR OTHER ASSETS**

| **C. Details of the Property/Funds or Other Assets** | |
|---|---|
| Type of Property (indicate):<br>• Cash/Funds<br>• Bank Account<br>• Insurance Policy<br>• Real Estate<br>• Securities<br>• Other Specify | |
| ***If property involves an account*** | |
| Account Number | |
| Account Type | |
| Actual or approximate value | |
| ***If property involves a transaction*** | |
| Date of transaction | |
| Nature of the transaction & Amount of Transaction | |
| Type of funds or other property involved in initiating the transaction:<br>• Cash<br>• Jewellery<br>• Negotiated securities<br>• Diamonds<br>• Negotiated bank draft | |

| C. Details of the Property/Funds or Other Assets | |
|---|---|
| • Precious metal<br>• Real estate<br>• Withdrawal from account<br>• Negotiated cheque<br>• Incoming electronic funds transfer<br>• Negotiated life insurance policy | |

## PART III: REPORTING FINANCIAL INSTITUTION

| PART G: Details of Reporting Financial Institution | |
|---|---|
| Name | |
| Designation | |
| Contact:<br>i. Email address<br>ii. Phone number | |
| Date of Reporting | |

**Send completed form and relevant documents to:** fijifiu-intel@rbf.gov.fj

For further information and/or clarification regarding this report, contact the FIU on email fijifiu-intel@rbf.gov.fj

## Annex 2: Flowchart for the Targeted Financial Sanctions Process

**1. DESIGNATED LISTING**

Designated Persons and Entities

i) UN Sanctions List and

ii) Local List

Can refer to the UN website, FIU website or updates from the FIU on designated persons/entities

**2. SCREEN AND MONITOR**

Must continuously screen and monitor their client database against the sanctions listing to identify any "true postive" match.

**3. VERIFY POSITIVE MATCH**

Must take reasonable steps to verify a "true positive" match by checking other information available.

**4. FREEZE WITHOUT DELAY**

When a "true positive" match is identified and verified, covered businesses must *without delay* and *without prior notice* to the person or entity, freeze funds/assets and prohibit transactions or access to properties.

**5. REPORT TO FIJI POLICE FORCE (through the FIU)**

Must immediately (no later than 24 hours) report to the Fiji Police Force, through the FIU, the customer and existence of any funds, property or assets.