

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. Financial institutions in Fiji are required under section 12W of the Public Order Act to apply targeted financial sanctions on designated¹ 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 financial institutions to better understand and meet their obligations under Part 3B of the Public Order Act.

IV Definitions

9. **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.²
10. **Property**³ 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.
11. The definitions of “asset” and “fund” are encompassed within the definition of property.

¹ The Public Order Act refers to designated persons and entities as “specified entities”

² FATF Recommendation

³ As per the Interpretation Act 1967.

12. 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

13. 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, financial institutions should refer to the *ISIL/Da'esh and Al-Qaida Sanctions List and the Taliban Sanctions List*.
 - ii. **For proliferation financing** targeted financial sanctions, financial institutions should refer to the *DPRK (North Korea), and Iran Sanctions Lists*.
14. 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.⁴ This is referred to as the *Local List*.
15. 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.
16. The Fiji Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) will notify financial institutions 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.
17. 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 Customers against the UN Sanctions List and Local List (Sanctions List)

18. To meet its obligations under the Public Order Act, a financial institution must continuously monitor or screen its customer database to determine if a customer 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.
19. The requirement to monitor and screen customers is not a standalone obligation but is integrated with, and forms part of, the broader obligations under the Financial Transactions Reporting Act.
20. **Best Practice:** Financial institutions should implement appropriate measures to identify and monitor relationships, transactions, funds, property, assets, and accounts linked to designated persons or entities. This should include joint accounts and facilities, as well as assets that are jointly owned or directly or indirectly controlled by a designated person or entity, to support the effective implementation of targeted financial sanctions.
21. **Best Practice:** A financial institution should pay particular attention to customers that are entities (such as companies, partnerships, and non-profit organisations) with layered ownership structures or potential indirect links to a designated person. This includes screening the entities and their ultimate beneficial owners such as principal shareholders, directors, and account

⁴ Public Order Act, s12P

signatories, and continuously monitoring customers, beneficial owners, authorised signatories, transaction parties, counterparties, payees, payors, and any other person or entity connected with property or services held, controlled, or provided by the institution, to determine whether there is a match with a person or entity on the relevant sanctions lists.

Customer Screening for TFS

A financial institution can conduct screening of their customers at multiple key points as follows:

- i. Onboarding of new customer;
- ii. Ongoing/continuous screening to determine if existing customers have been added to the sanctions list;
- iii. Trigger events such as change in customer details;
- iv. Transaction screening is often done in real time (especially for cross-border);
- v. Period review which can be scheduled;
- vi. Before processing certain transactions; and/or
- vii. 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 financial institutions, which identifies that “John Doe” has been designated and added to the UN Sanctions List.

Step 1: The bank receives the FIU update and screens its customer database, against the name “John Doe”.

VII Verifying Positive Name Matches

22. If there is a “**positive name**” match meaning that the name of a customer 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 customer 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 customer’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 customer 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 customer named “John Doe” is flagged during screening as matching the “name” of a person listed in the UN Sanctions List.

Step 2: The bank checks and determines if the current customer “John Doe” is the same individual listed in the UN sanctions list by verifying the customer’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 immediately⁵ and without delay and without prior notice to the person or entity concerned:
- freeze any property, funds or accounts owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by the designated person or entity;
 - freeze any funds derived from property owned or controlled, directly or indirectly by a designated person or entity;
 - prohibit any transaction related to property or funds owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by the designated person or entity;
 - 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

Some examples of applying targeted financial sanctions by different financial institutions are as follows:

- A bank must freeze all of the customer’s bank accounts, block any incoming or outgoing payments and suspend access to online or mobile banking services.
- A foreign exchange dealer must not facilitate any international transfer on behalf of or for the customer; and suspend access to online or mobile services.
- An insurance company must freeze cash-value, hold any claim payments and prohibit policy withdrawals or surrender payouts to or for the customer.
- 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 bank must immediately apply targeted financial sanctions.

Step 3: The bank will freeze all of John Doe’s bank accounts and prohibit all transactions and services relating to the customer.

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:⁶
- a person or entity is a “true positive” match for a name on the UN Sanctions List or Local List and
 - 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.

⁵ Public Order Act, s12W

⁶ Public Order Act, s12V

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 fijifu-intel@rbf.gov.fj with the following information:
- a) Name and other details of customer for whom a “true positive” match was identified to the UN Sanctions List or Local List;
 - 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

Financial institutions 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 bank submits a report to the FIU within 24 hours. The report includes customer 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 financial institutions 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 customer becomes aware that they cannot access their funds, property, or complete a transaction, they may contact their financial institution for the reason. The financial institution may then inform the customer that their account, property, or transaction has been frozen or blocked in compliance with sanctions obligations under the Public Order Act.

Example: John Doe contacts the bank since his bank account has been frozen

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

"Your account has been frozen in accordance with applicable United Nations sanctions obligations and section 12W of the Public Order Act. The bank is prohibited from processing transactions involving the account unless permitted under applicable sanctions exemptions."

34. For any customer who is subjected to financial sanctions, the financial institution may refer that customer 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:** Financial institutions are encouraged to adopt risk-based policies, procedures, and systems for the ongoing screening of customers 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, financial institutions can contact the FIU Policy & Compliance team on phone 3223 333 or email address: fjifiu-compliance@rbf.gov.fj.

**Financial Intelligence Unit
30 June 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:	
i. Source document	
ii. Number	
iii. Date of issue	
iv. Date of expiry	

B. Details of the Designated Entity

1. Full name of Entity	
2. Address	
3. Date of incorporation/registration	of

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

C. Details of the Property/Funds or Other Assets

Type of Property (indicate):	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cash/Funds • Bank Account • Insurance Policy • Real Estate • Securities • Other Specify 	
<i>If property involves an account</i>	
Account Number	
Account Type	
Actual or approximate value	
<i>If property involves a transaction</i>	
Date of transaction	
Nature of the transaction & Amount of Transaction	
Type of funds or other property involved in initiating the transaction:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cash • Jewellery • Negotiated securities • Diamonds • Negotiated bank draft 	

C. Details of the Property/Funds or Other Assets

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Precious metal• Real estate• Withdrawal from account• Negotiated cheque• Incoming electronic funds transfer• Negotiated life insurance policy | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|

PART III: REPORTING FINANCIAL INSTITUTION**PART G: Details of Reporting Financial Institution**

Name	
Designation	
Contact: i. Email address ii. Phone number	
Date of Reporting	

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

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

Annex 2: Flowchart for the Targeted Financial Sanctions Process

