

# **BUILDING MORE GRACIOUS AND HARMONIOUS COMMUNITIES: FACILITATING EFFECTIVE RESOLUTION OF NEIGHBOUR DISPUTES**

## **ANNEX A**

### **Proposed Offences and Penalties**

As part of the public consultation and engagement sessions in 2023, majority of the respondents supported the proposed investigation and enforcement powers aimed at addressing gaps in current measures and resolving severe cases of neighbour disputes. They highlighted the need to exercise appropriate powers fairly, and that safeguards should be in place to prevent potential misuse of powers.

2 The following table sets out the range of offences related to neighbour noise, and the accompany penalties, **which are not novel**. The provisions are modelled on existing Singapore laws such as the Environmental Public Health Act 1987, Miscellaneous Offences (Public Order and Nuisance) Act 1906, Active Mobility Act 2017 and the Penal Code 1871. Public authorities in the UK, Australia, New Zealand and Canada also possess similar powers.

<b><u>S/N</u></b>	<b><u>Offence</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>	<b><u>Maximum Penalty upon conviction</u></b>	<b><u>References</u></b>
1	Obstructing CRO or Auxiliary CRO*	Obstruct, hinder, delay or refusal to comply with any request, demand or order made by CRO or Auxiliary CRO	Fine of \$5,000 or 12 months' imprisonment or both	S.56 of Active Mobility Act 2017
2	Damaging or altering monitoring equipment*	Damage, alter, obstruct or impair the proper functioning of monitoring or surveillance equipment installed by a CRO or Auxiliary CRO	Fine of \$5,000 or 12 months' imprisonment or both	Vandalism Act, S.56 of Active Mobility Act 2017
3	Providing false information*	Furnish document, statement, information, knowing or reasonably knowing that the information is false	Fine of \$5,000 or 12 months' imprisonment or both	S.57 of Active Mobility Act 2017
4	Impersonating CRO or Auxiliary CRO	Representing oneself to be a CRO or Auxiliary CRO when he or she is not	Fine of \$2,500 or 6 months' imprisonment or both	S.58 of Active Mobility Act 2017
5	Preservation of secrecy	Unauthorised disclosure of information by CROs, auxiliary CROs or contractors	Fine of \$2,000 or 12 months' imprisonment or both	S.47 of National Environment Agency Act 2002

6	Non-compliance of abatement order*	Failure to comply with an abatement order issued by the Director-General within the time specified in the order, without reasonable excuse	<p>Fine of \$10,000 for a first time offender; \$20,000 or 3 months' imprisonment or both for a repeat offender.</p> <p>For both first time and repeat offender, further fine not exceeding \$1,000 per day continues after conviction in situations of a continuing offence.</p>	S.45 (11) of the Environmental Public Health Act
7	Non-compliance with mediation direction*	Failure to comply with a direction to mediate by not attending or withdrawing from the mediation before he is allowed to do so	Fine of \$1,500	S.174(1)(a) of the Penal Code
8	Non-compliance of direction to stop further complaints*	Failure to comply with direction to stop further complaints, in cases where a complainant had habitually and persistently made frivolous complaints.	Fine of \$5,000	S.14A of the Miscellaneous Offences (Public Order and Nuisance) Act

\*Director-General of Community Relations may compound these offences by collecting one half of the amount of maximum fine prescribed for the offence, or \$2000, whichever is lower.