Singapore: tax, criminal enforcement and AML

Dr Alexander Ressos, TEP
Attorney-at-Law (Switzerland and Germany),
Solicitor (England & Wales and Hong Kong)
Of Counsel, KGP Legal LLC
alexander.ressos@kgplegal.com.sg
www.ressos.com.sg

Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore (IRAS)

The tax authority for income tax, GST, stamp duty and property tax, which also acts as the competent authority for CRS and CARF exchange. IRAS publishes the e-Tax Guides on digital tokens for income tax and GST and administers the Voluntary Disclosure Programme.[1] Approach: advance rulings are available for a fee on the application of the Income Tax Act to a specific proposed arrangement, with a published target of eight weeks. General queries can be raised through myTax Portal. IRAS is responsive but will not rule on hypothetical facts or on the characterisation of past transactions.

Commercial Affairs Department (CAD)

The white-collar crime unit of the Singapore Police Force, investigating fraud, criminal breach of trust, laundering and offences under the SFA and the PSA, often jointly with MAS. CAD ran the Terraform, Hodlnaut and 2023 laundering investigations.[2] Approach: criminal complaints are lodged at any police station or

© 2026 Dr Alexander Ressos. General information only, not legal, tax or investment advice. No client relationship is created. All Singapore law advice is provided by a duly licensed and regulated firm of Singapore advocates and solicitors only on the basis of an express written letter of engagement. More information at SingaporeIQ.com and ressos.com.sg.

online and are routed to CAD where the facts justify it. Victims' counsel can supply tracing reports and CAD will act on them. CAD does not update complainants on the progress of investigations beyond formal notifications.

Suspicious Transaction Reporting Office (STRO)

Singapore's financial intelligence unit within CAD, the recipient of suspicious transaction reports under s. 45 CDSA and of cash movement reports. STRO exchanges intelligence with MROS through the Egmont Group.[3] Approach: reports through the SONAR portal by the reporting entity. STRO does not communicate with subjects.

Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau (CPIB)

The anti-corruption agency, relevant where digital assets are used for bribery. Approach: as for CAD.

Attorney-General's Chambers (AGC)

The public prosecutor and the government's legal adviser, deciding whether to prosecute and conducting prosecutions. The AGC's International Affairs Division is the central authority for mutual legal assistance requests to and from Switzerland.[4] Approach: through the police for complaints, through the central authority for mutual assistance.

Anti-Scam Command (ASC)

The Singapore Police Force unit coordinating scam prevention and the rapid freezing of accounts, including crypto exchange accounts, in cooperation with banks and licensed DPT providers. Approach: victims report through the police. The ASC's relationships with exchanges make it the fastest route to a freeze in Singapore.

© 2026 Dr Alexander Ressos. General information only, not legal, tax or investment advice. No client relationship is created. All Singapore law advice is provided by a duly licensed and regulated firm of Singapore advocates and solicitors only on the basis of an express written letter of engagement. More information at SingaporeIQ.com and ressos.com.sg.

Notes

1. Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore Act 1992; the IRAS guides are listed in Annex A4 and discussed in Part M. ↩
2. Criminal Procedure Code 2010; the CAD's role is described in Part N, Chapter II. ↩
3. Corruption, Drug Trafficking and Other Serious Crimes (Confiscation of Benefits) Act 1992, s. 45; see Part L, Chapter IV. ↩
4. Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Act 2000; see Part N, Chapter II. ↩

Disclaimer

This article is provided for general information only. It is based on publicly available sources as at its date of publication. These sources have not been independently verified against licences, regulatory registers or the records of the entities concerned. It is not legal, tax, financial or investment advice. Nor is it a recommendation to invest in, transact with or use the services of any entity mentioned. Law and regulation change frequently, so the content may be incomplete or outdated. To the fullest extent permitted by law, Dr Alexander Ressos and the publisher of SingaporeIQ exclude all liability for loss or damage arising from the use of or reliance on this article. Readers should obtain advice on their specific circumstances before acting or refraining from action.

Names and trademarks of the entities discussed belong to their owners and are used for identification only. Their mention implies no endorsement, affiliation or allegation of wrongdoing. All Singapore law advice is provided by a duly licensed and regulated firm of Singapore advocates and solicitors only on the basis of an express written letter of engagement. Corrections and updates: contact@ressos.com.

© 2026 Dr Alexander Ressos. This article may be quoted with attribution to SingaporeIQ (SingaporeIQ.com). Reproduction in full and any commercial use require prior written consent. The Legal Terms at https://singaporeiq.com/legal-terms apply.

Author contact: Dr Alexander Ressos, TEP · contact@ressos.com