



VANUATU FINANCIAL
= SERVICES COMMISSION =

LAW ENFORCEMENT STAKEHOLDERS' INFORMATION ACCESS PROCEDURE

May 2026

LEGAL DEPARTMENT

Background

The Vanuatu Financial Services Commission (VFSC) maintains company records and beneficial ownership data to ensure transparency in the financial sector. Law enforcement agencies, such as the Vanuatu Police Force and the Financial Intelligence Unit (VFIU), may request this information during investigations. VFSC follows a clear procedure to ensure such requests are lawful, secure, and compliant, while protecting sensitive data and supporting effective cooperation against AML / CTF crime.

This procedure outlines how VFSC responds to requests for company records and beneficial ownership data. It ensures that information is provided lawfully, securely, and efficiently.

Objectives

- **Ensure Legal Compliance** Provide a structured process that ensures all information requests are handled in accordance with Vanuatu's laws, including AML/CTF legislation.
- **Facilitate Cooperation** Strengthen collaboration between VFSC and law enforcement stakeholders such as the Police, FIU, and Customs by defining roles and responsibilities.
- **Promote Transparency & Accountability** Guarantee that requests are documented, reviewed, and responded to in a way that maintains integrity and accountability.
- **Safeguard Sensitive Data** Protect company records and beneficial ownership information while ensuring they are shared securely and only with authorized agencies.
- **Support Investigations** Enable law enforcement agencies to access accurate and timely information that can assist in AML/CTF investigations and enforcement actions.
- **Enhance Oversight** Ensure VFSC acts as a gatekeeper, balancing investigative needs with regulatory obligations to maintain trust in Vanuatu's financial system.

Legal Basis

These procedures are issued under -

- Section 15AC of the Charitable Associations (Incorporation) Act [Cap 140]
- Section 29C of the Foundations Act No. 38 of 2009, and
- MOUs signed between VFSC and law enforcement and stakeholders

Law Enforcement Request Initiated

- Law enforcement Entity identifies need for company records or beneficial ownership data
- Must have legal authority through court order, statutory power, or regulatory mandate



Submission to Registrar

- Request is formally submitted to the Registrar of Companies or Vanuatu Financial Services Commission (VFSC), through emails and letters



Verification of Authority

Registrar checks validity of request:

- Is it backed by law?
- Is it within scope (company records, beneficial ownership)?



Company Records Access

Registrar retrieves:

- Beneficial ownership register
- Director/shareholder filings
- Other statutory records



Disclosure to Law Enforcement

- Information is released by email or letters, only to authorized officers
- Confidentiality provisions apply (not for public release)



Law Enforcement Action

- Data used for investigation, compliance checks, or enforcement proceedings

Please contact the following person should you have any questions:

Mr. John Stephens Tougon
Manager, Legal Department
Email: jstougon@vfsc.vu
Phone: (678) 22247

Dated this 7th day of May 2026



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Branan Karae
Commissioner

