

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Retailer Fined for Registering and Selling Prepaid SIM Cards Without Customers' Consent Highest penalty meted out to date

SINGAPORE, 17 January 2024 — Personal Data Protection Commission (“PDPC”) has imposed a financial penalty of S\$48,000 on Mobile Phone Retailer, Mobile Chat and its sole proprietor Koh Wei Ming @ Muhammad Amin Koh (“Koh”). This is the highest penalty meted out for this offence to date.

Investigations found that Koh had exploited customers’ personal data, without their knowledge and/or consent, to illicitly register additional prepaid SIM cards. Koh then sold the additional SIM cards to anonymous buyers. The errant practices took place over a period of 4 years with more than 1,000 illicit SIM cards sold.

Koh was previously sentenced to 16 months’ imprisonment under Section 5(1) r/w Section 11A of the Computer Misuse Act (Cap 50A, 2007 Rev Ed) in September 2023 for unauthorised modification of the contents of M1 Limited’s computer system for the registration of pre-paid SIM cards.

This is the second case involving egregious misuse of individuals’ personal data to undertake illicit activities. The prior case involved mobile retailer Yoshi Mobile, that sold illicit SIM cards that were then exploited by perpetrators to send unsolicited messages. Yoshi Mobile was fined S\$21,000.

The PDPC takes a serious view on the misuse of data and will take firm enforcement action against such errant retailers.

About Personal Data Protection Commission (PDPC)

The PDPC was established to administer and enforce the Personal Data Protection Act (PDPA) in Singapore by serving as Singapore's main authority in matters relating to personal data protection and representing the Singapore Government internationally on data protection related issues. The PDPC's mission is to foster an environment of trust among businesses and customers by striving to balance the protection of individuals' personal data with organisations' need to use the data for legitimate purposes. For more information, please visit www.pdpc.gov.sg.

For media queries, please contact:

Sumita Sreedharan

Manager, Communications and Marketing

Infocomm Media Development Authority

Email: Media@IMDA.GOV.SG