

controls in place to prevent the activity of money laundering and terrorist financing and include:

- Registering with the DFSA as a DNFBP;
- Informing us when there is a change in name, legal status or address;
- Maintain communication and co-operation with regulators;
- Report Suspicious Activities to the Anti-Money Laundering Suspicious Cases Unit (AMLSCU) of the Central Bank of the UAE; and
- Where required designate an appropriate person as a Money Laundering Reporting Officer (MLRO) whose responsibilities will include:
 - i. Establishing and maintaining AML policies, procedures, systems and controls and compliance with AML legislation applicable in the DIFC;
 - ii. The day-to-day operations for compliance with the AML policies, procedures, systems and controls;
 - iii. Acting as the point of contact to receive internal Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) from employees and taking the appropriate action with the AMLSCU (if appropriate) and sending corresponding copies to the DFSA;
 - iv. Acting as the point of contact for UAE authorities and the DFSA regarding money laundering issues;
 - v. Responding promptly to any request for information made by UAE authorities or the DFSA;
 - vi. Establishing and maintaining an appropriate AML training programme and adequate awareness arrangements for all employees; and
 - vii. Receiving and acting upon relevant findings, recommendations, guidance, directives, resolutions, sanctions, notices or other conclusions from UAE authorities, the DFSA or other regulatory bodies.

Fees

A DNFBP who falls into the following categories must pay the DFSA an annual fee of USD \$3,000:

- Law firm, notary firm or other independent legal business;
- Accounting, audit or insolvency firm; or
- Company service providers.

Please refer to the FER Module for information on the manner and timing of the payment of fees.

Getting Help

Visit the DFSA website at **www.dfsa.ae** for:

- Full text of Laws, Regulations and Rules
- More news about the DFSA
- Copies of DFSA publications

Regulating DNFBPs operating in or from the DIFC

General Enquiries

- Via telephone +971 4 362 1500
- Via email **info@dfsa.ae**

Regulating a Designated Non-Financial Business or Profession (DNFBP) operating within the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) for the purpose of Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Counter Terrorist Financing (CTF).

What is a DNFBP?

DNFBP stands for “Designated Non-Financial Business or Profession” (DNFBP). Certain types of “non-financial” businesses have been identified as being susceptible to money laundering and terrorist financing due to the nature of their business and the transactions that they may conduct. The following class of persons whose business or profession is carried on in or from the DIFC is a DNFBP:

- **Real estate developers and agents that carry out transactions with a customer involving the buying or selling of real property;**
- **Dealers in precious metals and dealers in precious stones;**
- **Dealers in any saleable item of a price equal to or greater than USD \$15,000 high-value goods;**
- **Law firms, notary firms and other independent legal businesses;**
- **Accounting firms, audit firms or insolvency firms;**
- **Company service providers that carry out any of the following activities for a customer:**
 - i. acting as a formation agent of legal persons;
 - ii. acting as (or arranging for another person to act as) a director or secretary of a company, a partner of a partnership, or a similar position in relation to other legal persons;
 - iii. providing a registered office, business address or accommodation, correspondence or administrative address for a company, a partnership or any other legal person or arrangement;
 - iv. acting as (or arranging for another person to act as) a nominee shareholder for another person; or
- **Single Family Offices.**

What is Money Laundering?

Money Laundering is “the processing of criminal proceeds to disguise their illegal origin”. When a criminal activity generates substantial profits, the individual or group involved must find a way to control the funds without attracting attention to the underlying activity or the persons involved. Criminals do this by disguising the sources, changing the form or moving the funds to a place where they are less likely to attract attention.

What is Terrorist Financing?

Terrorist financing is “the act of directly or indirectly, unlawfully and wilfully, providing or collecting funds with the intention that they should be used or in the knowledge that they will be used to carry out an act of terrorism”. The same techniques used by a money launderer are attractive to terrorist financiers who seek not only hide or disguise their own involvement, but the identities of those committing acts of terrorism.

Why DNFBPs are being registered by the DFSA?

The DFSA is the independent regulator for the DIFC. We authorise and regulate institutions and individuals who conduct financial or non-financial services in or from the DIFC.

Money launderers and terrorist financiers are continuously looking for new methods of disguising their funds; they will actively seek to exploit weaknesses in AML systems and controls and will gravitate to countries and financial systems with weak or ineffective controls.

Importantly, it is not just the financial sector which is at risk of being misused by money launders and terrorist financiers. The non-financial sector (DNFBP) including jewellers, dealers in high value goods, lawyers, accountants, real estate developer/agents, company service providers and Single Family Offices are also vulnerable.

The DIFC, therefore, has put in place measures to prevent and deter money laundering by requiring DNFBPs to be registered with the DFSA and to have systems and controls in place to scrutinise transactions and report suspicious behaviour. DNFBPs are also required to comply with specified sections of the AML Module of the DFSA Rulebook.

Becoming Registered

A DNFBP must register with the DFSA by completing and submitting the DNFI Form contained in the AFN Module of the DFSA Sourcebook. **Before you submit your DNFI Form with us, please consider the following matters:**

- I. We strongly recommend you engage with the Business Development unit of the DIFC Authority and the DIFC Registrar of Companies. They will help you understand the value proposition of the DIFC to assist your evaluation of whether a presence here will make business sense for your business.

2. Ensure that your business or profession falls within the definition of a DNFBP.
3. If you intend to carry on a business or profession as a law firm, notary firm or independent legal business, we recommend you engage with the Government of Dubai Legal Affairs Department to help you understand any relevant approvals required for the provision of legal services in or from the DIFC.
4. Ensure you will be able to comply with relevant Rules applicable to you in the AML Module of the DFSA Rulebook upon registration. For example, ensure your proposed AML policies and procedures reflect the requirements of the AML Module.

Completing the DNFI Form

Be as comprehensive as possible in completing the DNFI Form. It is vital that you supply all relevant information. Openness and honesty are essential.

The DFSA may also need to make further enquiries or seek clarification from you regarding the information provided.

Review your DNFI Form before submission, particularly when using consultants or legal advisers. You are the one who knows your business best and you are also responsible for any information contained in the DNFI Form.

Make sure your DNFI Form is signed and that you have provided the required attachments.

Registration Timeline

If your DNFI Form is complete the DFSA will typically process your registration within 14 calendar days of receipt. This timing is indicative only and may be impacted by the completeness of your DNFI Form and the timely submission of information and responses to any requests made by the DFSA.

Once we have finished processing your DNFI Form, and provided you have obtained all the relevant permissions and approvals to conduct business in or from the DIFC, the DFSA will register you.

What you have to do as a DNFBP?

DNFBPs are required to have adequate policies, procedures, systems and