

Response ID ANON-Z596-YZNU-M

Submitted to AML/CFT Act review
Submitted on 2021-11-18 13:03:36

Tell us a bit about yourself

1 What age group are you in?

35-49

2 What is your ethnicity? (You can select more than one.)

NZ European

Please specify:

Not Answered

Please specify:

Not Answered

Please specify:

Not Answered

Please specify:

3 If you're responding on behalf of an organisation or particular interest group, please give details below:

Organisation or special interest group details:

As director and shareholder of Simplicity Accounting Limited in Canterbury.

4 If you would like to be contacted in the future about AML/CFT work, please include your email address below. (Note you are not required to provide your email address. You can provide your submission anonymously.)

Email address:

2. Scope of the AML/CFT Act

2.1 How should the Act determine whether an activity is captured, particularly for Designated Non-Financial Businesses and Professions (DNFBPs)?

Please share your comments below.:

Not Answered

Please give reasons for your answer.:

2.2 If 'ordinary course of business' was amended to provide greater clarity, particularly for DNFBPs, how should it be articulated?

Please share your comments below.:

2.3 Should 'ordinary' be removed?

Not Answered

If so, how could we provide some regulatory relief for businesses which provide activities infrequently? Are there unintended consequences that may result? Please share your comments below.:

2.4 Should businesses be required to apply AML/CFT measures in respect of captured activities, irrespective of whether the business is a financial institution or a DNFBP?

Not Answered

Please give reasons for your answer.:

2.5 If you answered yes to the previous question (Question 2.4), should we remove 'only to the extent' from section 6(4)?

Not Answered

Would anything else need to change, e.g. to ensure the application of the Act is not inadvertently expanded? Please share your comments below.:

2.6 Should we issue regulations to clarify that captured activities attract AML/CFT obligations irrespective of the type of reporting entity which provides those activities?

Not Answered

Please give reasons for your answer.:

2.7 Should we remove the overlap between 'managing client funds' and other financial institution activities?

Not Answered

If you answered 'yes', how could we best do this to avoid any obligations being duplicated for the same activity? Please share your comments below.:

2.8 Should we clarify what is meant by 'professional fees'?

Not Answered

If you answered 'yes', what would be an appropriate definition? Please share your comments below.:

2.9 Should the fees of a third party be included within the scope of 'professional fees'?

Not Answered

Please give reasons for your answer.:

2.10 Does the current definition appropriately capture those businesses which are involved with a particular activity, including the operation and management of legal persons and arrangements?

Not Answered

Please give reasons for your answer.:

How could it be improved?:

2.11 Have you faced any challenges with interpreting the activity of 'engaging in or giving instructions'?

Not Answered

If you answered 'yes', what are those challenges and how could we address them?:

2.12 Should the terminology in the definition of financial institution be better aligned with the meaning of financial service provided in section 5 of the Financial Service Providers (Registration and Dispute Resolution) Act 2008?

Not Answered

If you answered yes, how could we achieve this?:

2.13 Are there other elements of the definition of financial institution that cause uncertainty and confusion about the Act's operation?

Not Answered

If you answered 'yes', please give details.:

2.14 Should the definition of high-value dealer be amended so businesses which deal in high value articles are high-value dealers irrespective of how frequently they undertake relevant cash transactions?

Not Answered

Please give reasons for your answer.:

Can you think of any unintended consequences that might occur?:

2.15 What do you anticipate would be the compliance impact of this change?

Please share your comments below.:

2.16 Should we revoke the exclusion for pawnbrokers to ensure they can manage their money laundering and terrorism financing risks?

Not Answered

Please give reasons for your answer.:

2.17 Given there is an existing regime for pawnbrokers, what obligations should we avoid duplicating to avoid unnecessary compliance costs?

Please share your comments below.:

2.18 Should we lower the applicable threshold for high value dealers to enable better intelligence about cash transactions?

Not Answered

Please give reasons for your answer.:

2.19 If you answered 'yes' to the previous question (Question 2.18), what would be the appropriate threshold? How many additional transactions would be captured? Would you stop using or accepting cash for these transactions to avoid AML/CFT obligations?

Please share your comments below.:

2.20 Do you currently engage in any transactions involving stores of value that are not portable devices (e.g. digital stored value instruments)?

Not Answered

If you answered 'yes', what is the nature and value of those transactions?:

2.21 What risks do you see with stored value instruments that do not use portable devices?

Please share your comments below.:

2.22 Should we amend the definition of "stored value instruments" to be neutral as to the technology involved?

Not Answered

If you answered 'yes', how should we change the definition? Please share your comments below.:

2.23 Should acting as a secretary of a company, partner in a partnership, or equivalent position in other legal persons and arrangements attract AML/CFT obligations?

Not Answered

Please give reasons for your answer.:

2.24 If you are a business which provides this type of activity, what do you estimate the potential compliance costs would be for your business if it attracted AML/CFT obligations?

Please share your comments below.:

How many companies or partnerships do you provide these services for?:

2.25 Should criminal defence lawyers have AML/CFT obligations?

Not Answered

If you answered 'yes', what should those obligations be and why?:

2.26 If you are a criminal defence lawyer, have you noticed any potentially suspicious activities?

Not Answered

If you answered 'yes', without breaching legal privilege, what were those activities and what did you do about them?:

2.27 Are there any unintended consequences that may arise from requiring criminal defence lawyers to have limited AML/CFT obligations, that we will need to be aware of?

Not Answered

If you answered 'yes', please give details.:

2.28 Should non-life insurance companies become reporting entities under the Act?

Not Answered

Please give reasons for your answer.:

2.29 If you answered 'yes' to the previous question (Question 2.28), should non-life insurance companies have full obligations, or should they be tailored to the specific risks we have identified?

Not Answered

Please give reasons for your answer.:

2.30 If you are a non-life insurance business, what do you estimate would be the costs of having AML/CFT obligations (including limited obligations)?

Please share your comments below.:

2.31 Should we use regulations to ensure that all types of virtual asset service providers have AML/CFT obligations, including by declaring wallet providers which only provide safekeeping or administration are reporting entities?

Not Answered

If you answered 'yes', how should we do this?:

2.32 Would issuing regulations for this purpose change the scope of capture for virtual asset service providers which are currently captured by the AML/CFT regime?

Not Answered

If you answered 'yes', please give reasons for your answer.:

2.33 Is the Act sufficiently clear that preparing or processing invoices can be captured in certain circumstances?

Not Answered

If you answered 'no', please give reasons for your answer.:

2.34 If we clarified the activity, should we also clarify what obligations businesses should have?

Not Answered

If you answered 'yes', please give reasons for your answer.:

2.35 Should preparing accounts and tax statements attract AML/CFT obligations?

Unsure

Please give reasons for your answer.:

This is a double edged sword. On the one hand by including this you increase the reporting obligations and "may" in turn reduce fraud but I also think this will force alot of small accountants to close up. This in turn is not a bad thing as like many industries there are absolute cowboys out there. Personally I am a sole practitioner working part time around the obligations of my young family. I have set my practice up to be very clear of AML as the costs and time involved are crippling. I make it very clear to my clients that I will not do anything that will push me into the AML regime. In saying that I STRONGLY believe that all accountants should belong to a professional body such as ATAINZ (as I do) or CAANZ and by belonging to these you are obliged to report suspicious activities just not in as formalised or rigid way as the AML currently requires. It is also my opinion that it is far too easy to get a tax agency with the IRD. This process should be tightned and include interviews to ensure tax agents are qualified and worthy of assisting with tax and financial compliance. A face to face meeting would also assist in flushing out any one that has set up as a tax agent solely to aid fraud and money laundering.

2.36 If you answered 'yes' to the previous question (Question 2.35), what would be the appropriate obligations for businesses which provide these services?

Please share your comments below.:

At present there appears to be alot of "double handling" by different professions a centralised AML database would make AML compliance much easier and could be used across all professions such as Banks, Lawyers and Accountants. Every firm seems to use different AML templates and procedures which they have to pay for along with cost of an audit each year. Streamline this process and make it cheaper or free and you will get more uptake and compliance. We live in a new age of technology why are we not using it. Why not create myAML like you have myIRD or myMSD etc.

2.37 Should tax-exempt non-profits and non-resident tax charities be included within the scope of the AML/CFT Act given their vulnerabilities to being misused for terrorism financing?

Not Answered

Please give reasons for your answer.:

2.38 If these non-profit organisations were included, what should their obligations be?

Please share your comments below.:

2.39 Are there any other regulatory or class exemptions that need to be revisited, e.g. because they no longer reflect situations of proven low risk or because there are issues with their operation?

Not Answered

If you answered 'yes', please share your suggestions.:

2.40 Should the exemption for internet auctions still apply, and are the settings correct in terms of a wholesale exclusion of all activities?

Not Answered

If you answered 'no', please give reasons for your answer.:

2.41 If it should continue to apply, should online marketplaces be within scope of the exemption?

Not Answered

Please give reasons for your answer.:

2.42 What risks do you see involving internet marketplaces or internet auctions?

Please share your comments below.:

2.43 If we were to no longer exclude online marketplaces or internet auction providers from the Act, what should the scope of their obligations be? What would be the cost and impact of that change?

Please share your comments below.:

2.44 Do you currently rely on this regulatory exemption to offer special remittance card facilities?

Not Answered

If you answered 'yes', how many facilities do you offer to how many customers?:

2.45 Is the exemption workable or are changes needed to improve its operation?

Please share your comments below.:

What would be the impact on compliance costs from those changes?:

2.46 Do you consider the exemption properly mitigates any risks of money laundering or terrorism financing through its conditions?

Not Answered

If you answered 'yes', please give reasons for your answer.:

2.47 Should we amend this regulatory exemption to clarify whether and how it applies to DNFBPs?

Not Answered

If you answered 'yes', please share your suggestions.:

2.48 Should we issue any new regulatory exemptions?

Not Answered

If you answered 'yes', please share your suggestions.:

Are there any areas where Ministerial exemptions have been granted where a regulatory exemption should be issued instead?:

2.49 Do you currently use a company to provide trustee or nominee services?

Not Answered

If you answered 'yes', why do you use them, and how many do you use? What is the ownership and control structure for those companies?:

2.50 Should we issue a new regulatory exemption to exempt legal or natural persons that act as trustee, nominee director, or nominee shareholder where there is a parent reporting entity involved that is responsible for discharging their AML/CFT obligations?

Not Answered

Please give reasons for your answer.:

2.51 If so, what conditions should be attached to such an exemption to ensure it does not raise other money laundering or terrorism financing vulnerabilities?

Please share your comments below.:

2.52 Should we issue a new regulatory exemption to exempt Crown entities, entities acting as agents of the Crown, community trusts, and any other similar entities from AML/CFT obligations?

Not Answered

Please give reasons for your answer.:

2.53 If you answered 'yes' to the previous question (Question 2.52), what should be the scope of the exemption and possible conditions to ensure it does not raise other money laundering or terrorism financing vulnerabilities?

Please share your suggestions below.:

2.54 Should we issue an exemption for all reporting entities providing low value loans, particularly where those loans are provided for social or charitable purposes?

Not Answered

Please give reasons for your answer.:

2.55 If so, what conditions should be attached to such an exemption to ensure it does not raise other money laundering or terrorism financing vulnerabilities?

Please share your comments below.:

2.56 Should the AML/CFT Act define its territorial scope?

Not Answered

Please give reasons for your answer.:

2.57 If so, how should the Act define a business or activity to be within the Act's territorial scope?

Please share your comments below.: