

Law No. (24) of 2023
Establishing the Dubai Data and Statistics Establishment¹

We, Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Ruler of Dubai,

After perusal of:

Federal Law by Decree No. (45) of 2021 Concerning Protection of Personal Data;

Law No. (3) of 2003 Establishing the Executive Council of the Emirate of Dubai;

Law No. (26) of 2015 Regulating Data Dissemination and Exchange in the Emirate of Dubai;

Law No. (28) of 2015 Concerning the Dubai Statistics Centre;

Law No. (1) of 2016 Concerning the Financial Regulations of the Government of Dubai, its Implementing Bylaw, and their amendments;

Law No. (8) of 2016 Regulating the Grant of Law Enforcement Capacity in the Government of Dubai;

Law (2) of 2016 Establishing the Dubai Data Establishment and its amendments;

Law No. (5) of 2021 Concerning the Dubai International Financial Centre;

Law No. (8) of 2021 Concerning Human Resources Management of Executive Directors/ Chief Executive Officers in the Government of Dubai;

Law No. (9) of 2022 Regulating the Provision of Digital Services in the Emirate of Dubai;

Law No. (22) of 2023 Concerning the Dubai Digital Authority;

Decree No. (22) of 2009 Concerning Special Development Zones in the Emirate of Dubai;

Executive Council Resolution No. (39) of 2015 Regulating Poll Studies Firms Operating in the Emirate of Dubai; and

The legislation establishing and regulating free zones in the Emirate of Dubai,

Do hereby issue this Law.

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¹Every effort has been made to produce an accurate and complete English version of this legislation. However, for the purpose of its interpretation and application, reference must be made to the original Arabic text. In case of conflict, the Arabic text will prevail.

Title of the Law

Article (1)

This Law will be cited as “Law No. (24) of 2023 Establishing the Dubai Data and Statistics Establishment”.

Definitions

Article (2)

The following words and expressions, wherever mentioned in this Law, will have the meaning indicated opposite each of them unless the context implies otherwise:

Emirate:	The Emirate of Dubai.
Government:	The Government of Dubai.
Executive Council:	The Executive Council of the Emirate of Dubai.
DDA:	The Dubai Digital Authority.
Director General:	The director general of the DDA.
DDSE:	The Dubai Data and Statistics Establishment established pursuant to this Law.
CEO:	The chief executive officer of the DDSE.
Local Government Entity:	Any of the Government departments; public agencies and corporations; Government councils; public authorities, including the authorities supervising Special Development Zones and free zones, such as the Dubai International Financial Centre; or other public entities affiliated to the Government.
Federal Government Entity:	Any of the ministries, public agencies and corporations, or similar entities affiliated to the Federal Government.
Other Entity:	A public entity affiliated to a local government of any of the emirates of the UAE, other than the Emirate.
Government Entity:	Any of the Federal Government Entities, Local Government Entities, or Other Entities.

Private Entity:	Any for-profit or non-profit non-government legal entity, including sole proprietorships.
Digital Transformation:	All means supporting the transformation of the Emirate into a digital city, including technical infrastructure; Digital Services; digital applications; Digital Data Platforms; and information technology and Data protection policies and strategies.
Digital Platform:	A digital system adopted by the DDA, which comprises hardware, software, networks, storage systems, and a connectivity and communication website; and which is used to provide Digital Services and compile, store, analyse, process, and disseminate Data and Statistics.
Data:	A collection of organised or unorganised information, facts, concepts, instructions, observations, or measurements, in the form of numbers, alphabets, symbols, images, or any other form, that are collected, produced, or processed by Data Providers. This includes "information" wherever mentioned in this Law.
Dubai Data:	The Data which is in the possession of Data Providers and is related to the Emirate.
Data Providers:	The Government Entities, Private Entities, and Persons determined by the DDSE.
Primary Registers:	The digital or paper-based registers which are determined, organised, and classified by the DDSE to ensure that each of them includes a specific and consistent type of Dubai Data.
Statistics:	Collecting Data and information from Data Providers; and auditing, processing, analysing, categorising, and disseminating the same in the form of statistical indicators and reports.
Statistical Survey:	A method of collecting Data and information from a community targeted by research or study, whether through a complete count or a sample count as determined based on scientific methods.
Poll Study:	The process of collecting Data using various techniques and methods with a view to directly or indirectly surveying the opinions and

measuring the trends of a community on a particular matter within a specific period of time.

Establishment of the DDSE

Article (3)

Pursuant to this Law, a public establishment named the “Dubai Data and Statistics Establishment” is established. The DDSE will have legal personality, and the legal capacity required to achieve its objectives and perform its functions under this Law, the resolutions issued in pursuance hereof, and other legislation in force in the Emirate. The DDSE is hereby affiliated to the DDA.

Head Office of the DDSE

Article (4)

The head office of the DDSE will be located in the Emirate. Other branches of the DDSE may be established within the Emirate pursuant to a resolution of the Director General.

Objectives of the DDSE

Article (5)

The DDSE aims to:

1. promote the position and competitiveness of the Emirate in the field of Data and Statistics;
2. establish the governance of Data and Statistics, and manage and enhance the quality of these Data and Statistics, in accordance with the best practices adopted in this respect;
3. provide accurate and reliable Data and Statistics in the Emirate with a view to achieving social and economic development in the Emirate, particularly in the field of Digital Economy;
4. provide support to decision makers in the Emirate, particularly in developing strategies, policies, plans, and initiatives;
5. strike a balance between Data dissemination, exchange, and usage; and Data confidentiality and privacy;
6. ensure the proper and accurate conduct of Poll Studies in the Emirate in accordance with the relevant recognised scientific methodologies and practices; and
7. provide an advanced and efficient Digital Platform for Data and Statistics in the Emirate.

Functions of the DDSE

Article (6)

For the purpose of achieving its objectives, the DDSE will have the duties and powers to:

1. prepare, in coordination with the General Secretariat of the Executive Council, a strategy for Data and Statistics to meet the needs of the Emirate; and present the same to the Director General for approval;
2. develop the plans, initiative, programmes, and projects related to Data, Statistics, artificial intelligence applications, advanced analytics, and Data science, in accordance with the Digital Transformation strategy adopted at the Emirate's level; present the same to the Director General for approval, and follow up their implementation;
3. propose and review, in coordination with the DDA, legislation governing Data, Statistics, artificial intelligence applications, advanced analytics, and Data science; and submit the same to the competent entities in the Emirate to take the necessary action in respect thereof;
4. propose and review the regulations and policies pertaining to Data, Statistics, artificial intelligence applications, advanced analytics, and Data science; and submit the same to the Director General for approval;
5. supervise the implementation of the above-mentioned Law No. (26) of 2015 and the resolutions issued in pursuance thereof;
6. establish the standards, frameworks, business models, and manuals for Data, Statistics, artificial intelligence applications, advanced analytics, and Data science; develop the tools necessary for the same; and submit them to the Director General for approval;
7. establish the rules and standards that Local Government Entities and Private Entities must observe for the purposes of protecting their Data, and submit the same to the Director General for approval;
8. approve the Data classification prepared by Data Providers, in accordance with the relevant applicable legislation, policies, standards, and manuals;
9. determine Data Providers;
10. determine Primary Registers and ensure that they are created, updated, organised, and classified in a manner that facilitates Data dissemination and exchange in accordance with the relevant rules adopted by the DDSE; and determine the entities responsible for these registers;

11. make Data and Statistics available through the Digital Platform, using the latest methods available; and manage the Digital Platform, determine the rules of its operation, and follow up its performance, without prejudice to the confidentiality of Data prescribed by this Law;
12. analyse Data and Statistics and draw conclusions with a view to supporting the decision-making process; and develop products that are based on using Data, Statistics, artificial intelligence applications, advanced analytics, and Data science;
13. design and conduct statistical studies, Statistical Surveys, and statistical counts; and prepare and provide demographic, economic, social, health, educational, and other statistical Data, information, forecasts, and indicators at the Emirate's level;
14. conduct Poll Studies in various demographic, social, economic, health, educational, and other fields;
15. take the necessary actions to ensure that Data Providers make Dubai Data available in a clear and accurate manner, and to minimise Data duplication and conflicts;
16. regulate and monitor the work of Private Entities working in the field of Poll Studies in the Emirate, and issue the required Permits to these entities in accordance with the relevant adopted rules and conditions;
17. investigate, and take the necessary actions and measures in respect of, the complaints filed against Data Providers and any acts performed by them in breach of the provisions of the above-mentioned Law No. (26) of 2015 and the resolutions issued in pursuance thereof;
18. promote the culture of Data and Statistics, and raise the awareness of all segments of the society on the importance of Data and Statistics;
19. design and hold training courses and workshops specialised in Data, Statistics, artificial intelligence applications, advanced analytics, and Data science;
20. provide consultations to Government Entities, Private Entities, and individuals on all matters related to Data, Statistics, artificial intelligence applications, advanced analytics, and Data science;
21. conduct studies and research, and keep abreast of best practices and methodologies, in relation to Data, Statistics, artificial intelligence applications, advanced analytics, and Data science; and submit recommendations and proposals for benefiting from the findings of these studies and research to the Director General to issue the relevant directives as he deems appropriate;
22. coordinate with the DDA on the representation of the Emirate before Government Entities and regional and international entities on all matters related to Data, Statistics, artificial intelligence

applications, advanced analytics, and Data science; and participate in conferences, symposia, projects, and programmes related to the same;

23. raise awareness of the importance of protecting personal and confidential Data;
24. monitor, inspect, and record the acts committed in violation of the legislation that the DDSE is assigned to enforce; and take the necessary action in respect of violators in accordance with that legislation;
25. consider and determine the grievances submitted to the DDSE in respect of any of the areas that are subject to its supervision; and
26. exercise any other duties or powers related to the achievement of the objectives of the DDSE, as assigned to it by the Director General.

Executive Body of the DDSE

Article (7)

- a. The executive body of DDSE will be comprised of the CEO and a number of administrative and technical employees.
- b. The rights and duties of the DDSE Employees will be determined pursuant to the relevant human resources regulations adopted by the DDA.

CEO of the DDSE

Article (8)

- a. A CEO will be appointed to the DDSE pursuant to a resolution of the Chairman of the Executive Council.
- b. The above-mentioned Law No. (8) of 2021 and the resolutions issued in pursuance thereof will apply to the CEO.

Functions of the CEO

Article (9)

- a. The CEO will supervise the work and activities of the DDSE and manage its affairs. The CEO will be directly responsible to the Director General for exercising the duties and powers assigned to him under this Law, the resolutions issued in pursuance hereof, and other legislation in force in the Emirate. In particular, the CEO will have the duties and powers to:

1. prepare the general policy and the strategic, development, and operational plans of the DDSE; submit the same to the Director General for approval; and follow up their implementation;
 2. propose the projects, programmes, and initiatives of the DDSE; submit the same to the Director General for approval, and follow up their implementation;
 3. prepare the draft annual budget and Financial Statements of the DDSE, and submit the same to the Director General for approval;
 4. prepare periodic reports on the performance of the DDSE, and submit the same to the Director General to issue the relevant directives as he deems appropriate;
 5. prepare the organisational structure of the DDSE and present it to the Director General for approval, in preparation for its submission to the Competent Entities in the Emirate for final approval;
 6. draft the bylaws and resolutions regulating the administrative and technical work of the DDSE; and submit the same to the Director General for approval;
 7. represent the DDSE before third parties in coordination with the DDA;
 8. conclude the contracts, agreements, and memoranda of understanding to which the DDSE is a party, in accordance with the relevant delegation of authority matrix approved by the Director General;
 9. propose the fees and charges for the services provided by the DDSE; and submit the same to the Director General for approval, in preparation for their final approval by the Competent Entities in the Emirate in accordance with legislation in force;
 10. supervise the daily work of the executive body of the DDSE;
 11. form permanent and temporary committees and work teams, and determine their functions and terms of reference; and
 12. exercise any other duties or powers assigned or delegated to him by the Director General, as required to enable the DDSE to achieve its objectives and perform its functions.
- b. The CEO may delegate any of his duties under paragraph (a) of this Article to any of the DDSE Employees, provided that such delegation is specific and in writing.

Financial Resources of the DDSE

Article (10)

The financial resources of the DDSE will consist of:

1. the financial appropriations allocated to the DDSE in the budget of the DDA;
2. the fees and charges collected by the DDSE in return for the services it provides; and
3. any other resources approved by Director General.

Cooperation with the DDSE

Article (11)

- a. For the purpose of performing its functions under this Law, the DDSE may, as it deems appropriate, seek the assistance of Government Entities, Private Entities, and individuals.
- b. All entities, individuals, and Data Providers must fully cooperate with the DDSE and provide it with any Data or Statistics it requests, in accordance with the relevant requirements, standards, and technical methods prescribed by the DDSE and with a view to ensuring the accurate and effective flow of such Data and Statistics. In addition, these entities, individuals, and Data Providers must provide support and cooperate with the DDSE and its authorised representatives as required for conducting counts, Statistical Surveys, and Poll Studies.

Dissemination of Data and Statistics

Article (12)

The DDSE will, in accordance with legislation in force in the Emirate, disseminate Data and Statistics and the outcomes of counts, Statistical Surveys, and Poll Studies, using digital or any other means. This does not apply to personal or confidential Data and Statistics.

Confidentiality of Data

Article (13)

Personal Data or information obtained through any Statistics, survey, count, or Poll Study is deemed confidential and may not be disclosed or divulged to any individual or entity without a written authorisation of its owner or a request of the competent judicial entities. Such Data or information may not be disseminated for other than statistical purposes, relied on to establish a tax burden, or used as evidence to prove a crime or as a basis for any legal action. However, it may be used as evidence against any Person who provides the DDSE with false Data or information.

Conducting Statistical Surveys

Article (14)

- a. No individual or Private Entity may conduct field or non-field Statistical Surveys without first obtaining the relevant Permit from the DDSE.
- b. A public entity may not conduct field Statistical Surveys without first obtaining the relevant Permit from the DDSE, and must coordinate with the DDSE in case of conducting non-field Statistical Surveys.
- c. The Permits referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this Article will be issued in accordance with the relevant requirements and procedures adopted by the DDSE.

Fees

Article (15)

In return for issuing Permits and providing services under this Law and the resolutions issued in pursuance hereof, the DDSE will collect the fees prescribed by the relevant resolution of the Chairman of the Executive Council.

Penalties

Article (16)

Without prejudice to any stricter penalty stipulated in any other legislation, the following will apply:

1. Any Person who breaches the confidentiality of any Data or Statistics; uses it for other than its intended purposes; changes or adds to it; or sells, distributes, prints, or disseminates such Data or Statistics without obtaining the authorisation referred to in Article (13) of this Law, will be punished by imprisonment for up to six (6) months or a fine not exceeding one hundred thousand dirhams (AED 100,000.00), or by both penalties.
2. Any person who commits any of the following violations will be punished by imprisonment for up to three (3) months or by a fine not exceeding fifty thousand dirhams (AED 50,000.00), or by both penalties:
 - a. wilfully disrupting any statistical work or count;
 - b. refusing to provide required Data, or providing incorrect or false Data, in relation to any statistical work or count. Any failure to provide the complete required Data within the time frame prescribed by the DDSE is deemed refusal to provide that Data unless the delay is proven to be due to a valid reason;

- c. obtaining or attempting to obtain confidential Data pertaining to any Statistics or count without being authorised to do so by the DDSE;
- d. knowingly disseminating, or causing the dissemination of, incorrect Statistics or false outcomes of a count;
- e. intentionally providing misleading Data to any of the Employees assigned to conduct Statistical Surveys, Poll Studies, or counts; or
- f. conducting Statistical Surveys without a Permit issued by the DDSE.

Law Enforcement

Article (17)

The Employees of the DDSE nominated pursuant to a resolution of the Director General upon the recommendation of the CEO will have the capacity of law enforcement officers to record the acts committed in breach of the provisions of this Law and the resolutions issued in pursuance hereof. For this purpose, they may issue the necessary violation reports; and, where necessary, seek the assistance of police personnel.

Transfer and Succession

Article (18)

As of the effective date of this Law:

1. the Employees of the Dubai Data Establishment and the Dubai Statistics Centre, and their financial appropriations, are hereby transferred to the DDSE;
2. the DDSE hereby succeeds to all rights and obligations of the Dubai Data Establishment and the Dubai Statistics Centre; and
3. the ownership of the real property, movables, assets, devices, equipment, and other property of the Dubai Data Establishment and the Dubai Statistics Centre are hereby transferred the DDSE.

Issuing Implementing Resolutions

Article (19)

The Director General will issue the resolutions required for the implementation of the provisions of this Law.

Repeals
Article (20)

- a. The above-mentioned Law No. (28) of 2015 and Law No. (2) of 2016 are hereby repealed. Any provision in any other legislation is also hereby repealed to the extent that it contradicts the provisions of this Law.
- b. The bylaws and resolutions issued in implementation of the above-mentioned Law No. (28) of 2015 and Law No. (2) of 2016 will continue in force, to the extent that they do not contradict this Law or any other legislation in force in the Emirate, until new superseding bylaws and resolutions are issued.

Commencement and Publication
Article (21)

This Law comes into force on the day on which it is issued, and will be published in the Official Gazette.

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
Ruler of Dubai

Issued in Dubai on 21 November 2023
Corresponding to 7 Jumada al-Ula 1445 A.H.