



Protection of Journalists' Sources Bill

69—1

Report of the Justice Committee

September 2022

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Ginny Andersen
Chairperson

Protection of Journalists' Sources Bill

Recommendation

The Justice Committee has examined the Protection of Journalists' Sources Bill and recommends that this bill not be passed.

About the Protection of Journalists' Sources Bill

This bill is a Member's bill in the name of Ingrid Leary MP. It would amend the definition of journalist in the Evidence Act 2006 to explicitly include investigative journalists.¹ It would also make amendments to the Search and Surveillance Act 2012 relating to information held by journalists.

Reason for recommending that the bill not be passed

We received a letter from the member in charge of the bill on 20 August 2022 informing us of her intention to withdraw the bill. The member told us that there are insurmountable drafting issues with the bill, and that the bill would not achieve its intended policy outcome. In accordance with the member's wishes, we therefore do not recommend that the bill proceed.

¹ Section 68 of the Evidence Act sets out that if a journalist has promised an informant not to disclose their identity, neither the journalist nor their employer can be compelled in criminal or civil proceedings to provide information that may disclose the identity of a confidential informant.

Appendix

Committee procedure

The Protection of Journalists' Sources Bill was referred to the committee on 20 October 2021. The closing date for submissions was 10 December 2021. We received and considered 10 submissions from interested groups and individuals. We heard oral evidence from two submitters in Wellington.

We received advice on the bill from the Ministry of Justice. The Office of the Clerk provided advice on the bill's legislative quality.

Committee members

Ginny Andersen (Chairperson)
Hon Paul Goldsmith
Dr Emily Henderson
Nicole McKee
Hon Mark Mitchell
Simon O'Connor
Willow-Jean Prime
Vanushi Walters
Arena Williams

Advice and evidence received

The documents that we received as advice and evidence are available [on the Parliament website](#).