

1 August 2019

Hon David Parker, Attorney-General

Consistency with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990: Remuneration Authority (Members of Parliament Remuneration) Amendment Bill (No 2)

1. We have considered whether the Remuneration Authority (Members of Parliament Remuneration) Amendment Bill (No 2), ('the Bill'), is consistent with the rights and freedoms affirmed in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 ('the Bill of Rights Act').
2. We have not yet received a final version of the Bill. This advice has been prepared in relation to the latest version of the Bill (PCO 21868/7.0). We will provide you with further advice if the final version of the Bill includes amendments that affect the conclusions in this advice.
3. The purpose of the Bill is to make changes to the method and frequency for reviews and determinations made by the Remuneration Authority to set the salaries of members of Parliament (MPs).
4. The Bill amends the Remuneration Authority Act 1977 to restore the Remuneration Authority's discretion when determining the salaries of MPs, and to link the frequency of MP's salary adjustments to the electoral cycle. The Bill amends the Members of Parliament (Remuneration and Services) Act 2013 to restore the requirement for the Remuneration Authority to consider the value of the personal benefit of entitlements when setting MP's salaries. This will have the effect of repealing the 2018 freeze on the Remuneration Authority updating the salaries of MPs.
5. We have concluded that the Bill appears to be consistent with the rights and freedoms affirmed in the Bill of Rights Act.

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