



*Library and Information Association
of New Zealand Aotearoa
Te Rau Herenga O Aotearoa*

25 July 2022

Hon David Clark

Minister Statistics

d.clark@ministers.govt.nz

Kia ora Minister Clark

LIANZA, Te Rau Herenga o Aotearoa, is the Library and Information Association of New Zealand. We are the voice for professionals and institutions working across the whole library and information sector, representing 195 institutions and 1,125 library and information professionals.

We are writing to you to express our concern and opposition on the [Data and Statistics Bill](#).

The Bill dangerously conflates two separate types of government data:

1. Official statistics
2. Unspecified data gathered as a result of government agency activity.

Vesting oversight of access to this second category of data solely in the hands of the Government Statistician, or with any government official (or contractor) they delegate their powers to, without ethical oversight introduces considerable risk.

If the Bill is not withdrawn altogether then LIANZA suggests the following revisions:

1. Part 5 is removed. This creates the unsafe regime for accessing government data for 'research' purposes.
2. Remove the powers to gather data for 'research' covered in Part 3 subpart 3.

This will provide a bill that updates the current regime for official statistics. Then work could begin on creating an exposure draft of a bill to govern the gathering and access of data for research purposes.

In 1976, in considering the Wanganui Computer Centre Bill, Parliament recognised the danger of intersecting data collections and required there to be a policy committee to provide oversight and governance of the computer centre. The committee was to consist of Government agency CEOs as well as external representation from the New Zealand Law Society and the New Zealand Computer Society.

It appears that New Zealand has gone backwards in understanding and mitigating risks of access to this kind of data at a time when other governments have moved forward.



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We urge you to look to the Australian Data Availability and Transparency Act 2022 for an approach to data oversight. This Act creates a commission and advisory board to look at applications to use government data for research. We suggest that this could be an appropriate approach in New Zealand.

Yours sincerely, naku noa nā

Two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is "Kim Taunga" and the signature on the right is "Ana Pickering".

Kim Taunga

Ana Pickering

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