

Hon Louise Upston

Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector
Minister for Disability Issues
Minister for Social Development and Employment
Minister for Child Poverty Reduction



30 MAY 2024
Ross Stewart

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Dear Ross

Thank you for your query dated 22 April 2024 via fyi.org.nz to Hon Karen Chhour, Minister for Children, about the Oversight of Oranga Tamariki System and Children and Young People's Commission Bill. Your query has been referred for my reply as this matter falls within my portfolio responsibilities as Minister for Social Development and Employment.

You asked:

"Will a section of the "Oversight of Oranga Tamariki System and Children and Young People's Commission Bill," which was passed by the previous Labour government and grants future New Zealand governments immunity from abuses committed by any state institutions, be repealed by the current Luxon National coalition government?"

The Government does not intend to repeal the Oversight of Oranga Tamariki System Act 2022 (Oversight Act) and Children and Young People's Commission Act 2022 (Commission Act).

My recent announcement on the intended changes to strengthen the oversight of the Oranga Tamariki system includes starting the reviews of the Oversight Act and Commission Act this year to help inform the structural changes I intend to make to the Independent Children's Monitor and Children and Young People's Commission. You may like to read my 2 May 2024 announcement here:

www.beehive.govt.nz/release/stronger-oversight-our-most-vulnerable-children.

Details on what the statutory reviews need to cover are provided in section 38 of the Commission Act 2022, found here: <https://legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2022/0044/15.0/LMS733235.html>, and section 58 of the Oversight Act, found here: https://legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2022/0043/latest/LMS591528.html?search=sw_096be8ed81d53164_section+58_25_se&p=2&sr=39.

Sincerely

Hon Louise Upston
Minister for Social Development and Employment

