

# Document One

## Out of Scope

**From:** Suze Jones <Suze.Jones@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Thursday September 14 2023 9 38 AM  
**To:** Amanda Shaw <Amanda.Shaw@dia.govt.nz>  
**Cc:** Michael Smith <Michael.Smith@dia.govt.nz>; Rowan Burns <Rowan.Burns@dia.govt.nz>; Ian Law <Ian.Law@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** RE: 2 questions on House procedure

Kia ora Amanda

The answer to your first question is quite straightforward. Yes the Government can just not put the Government bill in question in the reinstatement motion. It will therefore be categorised as "lapsed" and no select committee will have it before them. An example for you (the first I could easily find- there will be others) is the Employment (Pay Equity and Equal Pay) Bill in the name of Hon Woodhouse had its first reading in the 51<sup>st</sup> Parliament on 10 August 2017. It was not in the reinstatement motion of the incoming Government for the 52<sup>nd</sup> Parliament so it lapsed. There is also another option to either not reinstate it or voting it down. The Minister could wait for the select committee to report back and then just discharge it from the Order Paper (by informing the Clerk – email is fine). However if the Government have no intention of progressing the bill it seems a waste of the select committee's time to consider and report on it. For bills on the Order Paper (not before a select committee at the end of the Parliament) this is invariably what happens – they are all reinstated and then the Government progresses those it wants to and leaves those it doesn't wish to progress in their current form at the end of the Order Paper or eventually discharges them.

## Out of Scope

Cheers  
Suze

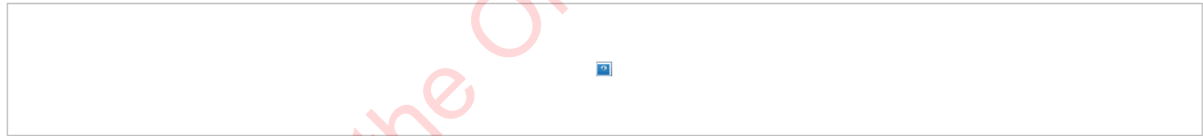
**From:** Amanda Shaw [<mailto:Amanda.Shaw@dia.govt.nz>]  
**Sent:** Thursday 14 September 2023 8 59 AM  
**To:** Suze Jones <Suze.Jones@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Cc:** Michael Smith <Michael.Smith@dia.govt.nz>; Rowan Burns <Rowan.Burns@dia.govt.nz>; Ian Law <Ian.Law@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** 2 questions on House procedure

Kia ora Suze

We are preparing draft advice for the incoming Government on various scenarios and want to be sure we understand House procedure correctly on a couple of points. I wondered if you could help with guidance on two questions? (Note these are two separate questions. They don't relate to the same legislation)

1. Can an incoming Government choose not to reinstate a Govt bill on the Order Paper even if it is before a select committee and submissions have been received? Or would it need to be referred back by the select committee and then voted down?

## Out of Scope



I'm happy to have a chat by phone if that is easier – and can also provide more context. I will be on training all day tomorrow but am reasonably available next week.

Many thanks  
Amanda

**Amanda Shaw** | Kaitātari Kaupapahere Mātāmua (Principal Policy Analyst)  
Ue te Hīnātore (Local Government Branch) | Te Tari Taiwhenua (The Department of Internal Affairs)  
**9(2)(a)**

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# Document Two

**From:** Suze Jones  
**To:** Amanda Shaw  
**Cc:** Mich. el Smith; Rowan Burns; Ian Law  
**Subject:** RE: 2 questions on House procedure  
**Date:** 15 September 2023 09:06:54  
**Attachments:** image001.png

Kia ora ano Amanda

I can do 1.15-2pm or 3.30-4pm on Wednesday. Please send an invite for whichever you prefer. My office is in Parliament House level 1 room 1.053- I can meet you in Beehive reception if you like or can you please send a Teams meeting request.

In terms of your answer below option 1 is the only viable option if the Government knows it doesn't want to progress a Government bill. Options 2 and 3 would only be used if the Minister didn't know whether or not they supported the bill which I can't imagine happening? While technically possible there is absolutely nothing to be gained and an enormous amount of bad will from the submitters and committee for putting them all to a great deal of effort only to be completely ignored. Option b in both 2 and 3 also wastes House time so it is unlikely any Leader of the House would allow it – it would languish at the end of the Order Paper all Parliament and potentially be a stick to hit the Minister with for the whole term (see treatment of Minister in charge of Kermadec bill or Organic Products bill- questions every single Thursday on live TV about what they plan to do with the bill).

If you do want to lay out all of those options then best to phrase them in a way that indicates what the Government can actually do and the implications. The Government is not in charge of the select committee so cannot compel them (even though they can influence them strongly in many cases – committees even ones with Government majorities do their own things sometimes). Eg

- A. Do not include the bill in the reinstatement motion and it will lapse (be terminated)
- B. Include the bill in the reinstatement motion and the committee will have it as an item of business before it.

**Step 1** Minister in charge of the bill can write to the committee and inform them that they do not wish to progress the bill and ask them to report it with that recommendation. The committee cannot be compelled to do this so if members disagreed it would need the Government members (if they are in a majority – no guarantee as we don't know the committee membership yet) to muscle it through on numbers. Not a great start to committee relationships and getting goodwill for issues the Government may want to progress in a bipartisan way. No matter how little consideration or time has been spent on the bill the committee can say what it likes in its report and any party can put a minority view in that report.

**Step 2** Following the report of the select committee the Minister in charge can discharge the bill by informing the Clerk (an email is fine) or the bill has a second reading and a vote is held and it can be voted down.

Let me know if you have any further questions.

Cheers  
Suze

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**From:** Amanda Shaw [mailto:xxxxx.xxxx@xxx.xxx.xx]  
**Sent:** Thursday 14 September 2023 11:05 AM  
**To:** Suze Jones <xxxx.xxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxx.xxx.xx>  
**Cc:** Michael Smith <xxxxxx.xxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx>; Rowan Burns <Rowan.Burns@dia.govt.nz>; Ian Law <xxx.xxx@xxxxxxxxxxx.xxx.xx>  
**Subject:** RE: 2 questions on House procedure

Thanks for the quick response Suze. That is really helpful.

So for the first question can I just check my summary below (mainly just want to check I have the yellow part right)....

If the incoming Government does not wish to proceed with the Bill the options are

1. Do not include the Bill in the reinstatement motion [SO 84]
2. **Select committee stops consideration of the Bill (i.e. doesn't hear submissions) and reports back to the House with whatever recommendations it sees fit [ SO 299(1)].** Then either
  - a. responsible Minister discharges the Bill from the Order Paper or by informing the clerk [SO 74(1)(b)]
  - b. Bill is voted down at second reading or subsequent stages.
3. Select committee completes consideration of the Bill reports it back to the House with whatever recommendations it sees fit [ SO 299(1)]. Then either
  - a. responsible Minister discharges the Bill from the Order Paper or by informing the clerk [SO 74(1)(b)]
  - b. Bill is voted down at second reading or subsequent stages.

For the second question would Wednesday next week suit you? Sometime between

- 9 - 10.30
- 1.15 - 2.15 or
- 3.30-4.30?

**Amanda Shaw** | Kaitātari Kaupapahere Mātāmua (Principal Policy Analyst)  
Ue te Hinātore (Local Government Branch) | Te Tari Taiwhenua (The Department of Internal Affairs)  
9(2)(a) [REDACTED]

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## Document Three

**From:** [Amanda Shaw](#)  
**To:** [Handley, Georgie](#); [William Spear](#)  
**Cc:** [Rowan Burns](#); [Jack Webb](#)  
**Subject:** Discharge options in the new term  
**Date:** 18 September 2023 09:29:48

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Hi both

For discussion at our catchup today.....

I asked Suze in the Office of the Clerk for a bit of information to make sure I was clear on the procedural options for the voting age Bill if the incoming government does not want to proceed. This will help us with our advice on the reinstatement motion. Here's her answer:

*Yes, the Government can just not put the Government bill in question in the reinstatement motion. It will therefore be categorised as "lapsed" and no select committee will have it before them. An example for you (the first I could easily find- there will be others) is the Employment (Pay Equity and Equal Pay) Bill in the name of Hon Woodhouse, had its first reading in the 51<sup>st</sup> Parliament on 10 August 2017. It was not in the reinstatement motion of the incoming Government for the 52<sup>nd</sup> Parliament so it lapsed. There is also another option to either not reinstated it or voting it down. The Minister could wait for the select committee to report back and then just discharge it from the Order Paper (by informing the Clerk – email is fine). However, if the Government have no intention of progressing the bill, it seems a waste of the select committee's time to consider and report on it. For bills on the Order Paper (not before a select committee at the end of the Parliament), this is invariably what happens – they are all reinstated, and then the Government progresses those it wants to and leaves those it doesn't wish to progress in their current form at the end of the Order Paper or eventually discharges them.*

So in a nutshell, if the incoming Government does not wish to proceed with the Bill, the options are:

1. Do not include the Bill in the reinstatement motion [SO 84]
2. Include the bill in the reinstatement motion and the Minister in charge of the bill can write to the committee and inform them that they do not wish to progress the bill and ask them to report it with that recommendation. The Committee cannot be compelled to do this. If the Committee stops consideration of the Bill (i.e. doesn't hear submissions) and reports back to the House [SO 299(1)]. Then either:
  - a. responsible Minister discharges the Bill from the Order Paper or by informing the clerk [SO 74(1)(b)]; or
  - b. Bill is voted down at second reading or subsequent stages. [Suze noted that this would waste House time so Leader of the House is unlikely to support it]
3. Include the bill in the reinstatement motion and the Justice Committee completes consideration of the Bill, reports it back to the House [SO 299(1)], and then either:
  - a. responsible Minister discharges the Bill from the Order Paper or by informing the clerk [SO 74(1)(b)]; or
  - b. Bill is voted down at second reading or subsequent stages. [Same "wasting time" comment as above].

**Amanda Shaw** | Kaitātari Kaupapahere Mātāmua (Principal Policy Analyst)  
Ue te Hīnātore (Local Government Branch) | Te Tari Taiwhenua (The Department of Internal Affairs)

9(2)(a)

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## Document Four

**From:** [Amanda Shaw](#)  
**To:** [Handley, Georgie](#)  
**Subject:** RE: advice to your new minister on voting age  
**Date:** 26 October 2023 14:20:07  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)

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Hiya

Yes good question. We are currently drafting a briefing on the voting age Bill which is focussed on the reinstatement motion. It will be one of our priority briefings to go up.

Current draft focusses on:

- Explaining the reinstatement process and explaining why this is a time sensitive issue
- Noting arguments for and against reinstating the Bill (including that if the Govt does not intend to support the Bill it is better not to reinstate it rather than waiting for select committee process to complete).
- Recommending that MOLG discuss this with MOJ given the implications for the EC.

I am planning to send you a draft early next week. We could potentially recommend that the Minister agree to forward a copy to your Minister, if both agencies were comfortable with that. But I know there can be a lot of sensitivities about what goes to Ministers in the transition period so that could get a bit tricky. I'll float it at my end.

I think I need to set up an MOJ/DIA catchup too. There are some other things to fill you in on. Tues or Thurs next week?

AJS

**Amanda Shaw** | Kaitātari Kaupapahere Mātāmua (Principal Policy Analyst)  
Ue te Hīnāture (Local Government Branch) | Te Tari Taiwhenua (The Department of Internal Affairs)  
9(2)(a)

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**From:** Handley, Georgie <Georgie.Handley@justice.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 26, 2023 9:48 AM  
**To:** Amanda Shaw <amanda.shaw@dia.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** advice to your new minister on voting age

Hello!

Hope things are going well.

We are knee deep in writing our briefing on the IER to go to the new Minister on 30 November. I am at the part about other projects that are related to the IER recs. Just wondering what advice you are providing to your new minister on the voting age bill? Should we be touching on the bill in our advice?

Thanks

G

**Georgie Handley**  
Principal Policy Advisor | Electoral and Constitutional  
Civil and Constitutional Unit | Policy Group  
Ministry of Justice | Tāhū o te Ture



9(2)(a)

National Office | Justice Centre | 19 Aitken Street  
DX Box SX10088 | Wellington

[georgie.handley@justice.govt.nz](mailto:georgie.handley@justice.govt.nz) | [justice.govt.nz](http://justice.govt.nz)

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## Document Five

**From:** [Handley, Georgie](#)  
**To:** [Amanda Shaw](#)  
**Cc:** [Tim Fahey](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Reinstatement briefing - Voting Age Bill  
**Date:** 01 November 2023 09:25:48  
**Attachments:** [Reinstatement briefing - Voting Age Bill.docx](#)

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Hi both

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on your reinstatement briefing. I thought it did a good job of providing advice in these uncertain times. I have made a few track changes and comments for your consideration.

Thanks

Georgie

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**From:** Amanda Shaw <~~x@xx~~>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 31 October 2023 4:38 pm  
**To:** Handley, Georgie <~~x@xx~~>  
**Cc:** Tim Fahey <~~x@xx~~>  
**Subject:** Reinstatement briefing - Voting Age Bill

Hi Georgie

Here's the draft paper as discussed. Comments welcome! It would be great if we could get feedback by the end of the week.

(As mentioned, Rowan's team and I are all out of the office tomorrow. )

AJS

**Amanda Shaw** | Kaitātari Kaupapahere Mātāmua (Principal Policy Analyst)  
Ue te Hīnātore (Local Government Branch) | Te Tari Taiwhenua (The Department of Internal Affairs)

9(2)(a)

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## Local Government briefing

Hon Simeon Brown  
Minister of Local Government

Title: **Advice on the reinstatement motion: Electoral (Lowering Voting Age for Local Elections and Polls) Legislation Bill**

Date: 28 November 2023

| Key issues  |   |
|---|---|
| <p>Cabinet will shortly decide whether bills from the previous parliamentary term will be reinstated in this new term. For the local government portfolio, the only bill available for reinstatement is the Electoral (Lowering Voting Age for Local Elections and Polls) Legislation Bill (the Bill).</p> <p>You have told us that the Government will not support progressing the Bill. We therefore recommend not reinstating the Bill, rather than reinstating it and waiting for the select committee to consider and report back on it.</p> <p>The alternative would be for the Government to wait for more information, via the select committee process, before making a final decision on whether or not to support the Bill. This would have resourcing implications.</p> <p>Cabinet decisions on any reinstatement motion are likely to be made quickly in the lead up to the Opening of Parliament. You may wish to discuss the options for this Bill with key Cabinet colleagues, and coalition partners (if appropriate), before the Cabinet meeting.</p> |   |
| Action sought   | Timeframe   |
| <p><b>Note</b> that Cabinet is likely to make decisions in the next few days on which, if any, business from the previous Parliament should be reinstated this term;</p> <p><b>Note</b> the arguments for and against reinstating the Electoral (Lowering Voting Age for Local Elections and Polls) Legislation Bill as outlined in this paper;</p> <p><b>Note</b> that, in the context of clear direction that the Government does not support progressing the Bill, our advice is to not reinstate the Bill;</p> <p><b>Note</b> that you may wish to discuss with your Cabinet colleagues (in particular the Minister of Justice and the Leader of the House), and coalition partners (if appropriate), whether or not the Bill should be reinstated before Cabinet makes decisions on the reinstatement motion; and</p> <p><b>Agree</b> to forward a copy of this briefing to the Minister of Justice.</p>   | <p>Prior to Cabinet decisions on the reinstatement motion</p> |

Contact for telephone discussions (if required)

| Name           | Position                                 | Contact Number | Suggested 1 <sup>st</sup> contact |
|----------------|--|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Michael Lovett | Deputy Chief Executive, Local Government | 9(2)(a)        | ✓                                 |
| Richard Ward   | General Manager, Policy and Operations   |                |                                   |

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Return electronic document to: | Tim Fahey <a href="mailto:Tim.fahey@dia.govt.nz">Tim.fahey@dia.govt.nz</a> |
| Cohesion document reference    | 3W2DU3RAJSR2-1188728781-877  |
| Ministerial database reference | LG202301199  |



## **Purpose**

1. This briefing provides you with advice on the arguments for and against reinstating the Electoral (Lowering Voting Age for Local Elections and Polls) Legislation Bill (the Bill).

## **Background**

### ***Business from the previous Parliament can be picked up again via a reinstatement motion***

2. Bills that are partway through the legislative process automatically lapse when parliament dissolves for the term. They can only be reinstated if a majority in the House of Representatives (the House) vote to reinstate them.
3. When a new term begins, the government usually puts forward a "reinstatement motion" to bring some or all of the lapsed business back before parliament. All reinstated business returns to the same legislative stage it had reached in the previous parliamentary term. Business that is not reinstated is discharged.
4. Typically, Cabinet will consider whether to debate a reinstatement motion in the House. Cabinet determines which items of parliamentary business will be included in that reinstatement motion.
5. In practice, the reinstatement motion has often been drafted on an "opt out" basis, proposing that all bills will be reinstated unless they are specifically excluded. Cabinet could decide to take an "opt in" approach instead (specifically considering and agreeing each bill to be included). The choice of approach is up to Cabinet.

### ***The previous Minister of Local Government introduced a Bill to lower the voting age***

6. There is only one Bill in the name of the Minister of Local Government which could be included in the reinstatement motion.
7. The Bill would lower the voting age (and therefore the candidacy age too) for local elections to 16 years old, except for voting in alcohol licensing trust elections which would remain at 18. The changes in the Bill would take effect after the 2025 local elections.
8. At the end of the previous parliamentary term the Bill was referred to the Justice Committee for consideration. The Committee has now received submissions but has not started considering the Bill.

### ***The Bill was introduced in response to a Supreme Court declaration***

9. In 2022 the Supreme Court issued a declaration of inconsistency (the Declaration) that the minimum voting age in the Electoral Act 1993 and the Local Electoral Act 2001 is discriminatory on the basis of age, and that the discrimination had not been justified.
10. In response to the Declaration, Parliament needed to have a select committee inquiry and hold a debate on three aspects:
  - the Declaration itself;
  - the select committee's report; and
  - the Government response to the Declaration.
11. That parliamentary process has been completed. The Bill formed part of the previous Government's response to the Declaration, but there was no requirement that a Bill be introduced or that the law be changed.

12. The previous Government did not introduce legislation to change the voting age for parliamentary elections. The Government response noted that this was a matter for future parliaments to consider.

### **Cases for and against the Bill**

#### ***The Government will need to decide whether to reinstate the Bill or not***

13. You have told us that the Government will not support progressing the Bill. We therefore recommend not reinstating the Bill, rather than reinstating it and waiting for the select committee to consider and report back on it.
14. However, because decisions on the reinstatement motion will need to be made quickly, we have briefly summarised the arguments for and against reinstating the Bill below, to assist any further discussions you may have with your Cabinet colleagues.

#### ***The main arguments against reinstating the Bill***

15. It is complicated to have separate voting ages for each of local and parliamentary elections. The Bill would be simpler, and cheaper to implement, if it applied to both parliamentary and local elections.
16. The Bill is uncosted and unfunded. The Electoral Commission will need to complete implementation design and costing work before a Budget Bid can be prepared. The Electoral Commission is currently fully committed to post-election requirements following the General Election and will not be able to start this work until late May/June 2024.
17. If the Government is clear that it does not support the Bill being enacted it would be preferable not to reinstate the Bill, rather than waiting for the select committee to report back. The six-month select committee process will consume House and department/Crown entity time (Department of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Electoral Commission and Parliamentary Counsel Office). That action would also take resources away from other priority projects for the Government.

#### ***The main arguments in favour of reinstating the Bill***

18. The Bill is designed to address the age discrimination in the Local Electoral Act 2001 identified by the Supreme Court.
19. The rationale for allowing 16- and 17-year-olds to vote in local elections includes:
  - evidence cited by the Office of the Children's Commissioner in its report to the High Court that people in their mid-teens are generally able to make deliberative decisions similar to voting (even if more emotionally charged decision-making remains underdeveloped);
  - the fact that 16- and 17-year-olds are more likely to be living at home, connected to their local community, and attending school than in later years; and
  - the potential for a younger voting age to instil life-long voting habits, during a more stable phase of life.
20. Allowing the Bill to finish the select committee process would likely give the Government more information about whether or not to support the Bill.

### Financial implications

21. Most of the implementation costs will fall on the Electoral Commission. The costs involved include IT system changes (to an aging bespoke IT system), process changes, and ongoing administrative costs due to there being more registered voters. Approximately 134,000 16- and 17-year-olds would be able to vote in most local elections from 2028 if the Bill were enacted.
22. This Bill would increase local election costs for local authorities. Lowering the voting age is estimated to increase local election costs by a minimum of \$1,050,000 (plus GST) shared across all local authorities for implementation, and for each future triennial election. This estimate is for the base costs relating to printing papers, postage and processing votes. It does not consider increases to costs for promoting elections and supporting voter turnout.

### Next steps

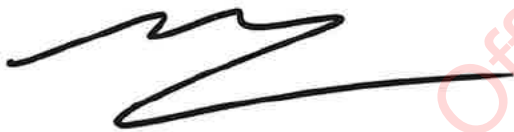
23. The reinstatement motion typically takes place in the first couple of days of the House sitting.
24. We recommend that you forward a copy of this briefing to the Minister of Justice because the Electoral Commission falls within his portfolio responsibilities.
25. You may also wish to have discussions with Cabinet colleagues (particularly the Leader of the House) and coalition partners (if appropriate) before Cabinet makes decisions on the reinstatement motion.
26. If the Bill is not reinstated then no further action needs to be taken.
27. If the Bill is reinstated:
  - 27.1 you will receive a request from the Justice Committee for support from officials as the Committee considers the Bill;
  - 27.2 we will provide you, in advance, with copies of any advice that is provided to the Committee; and
  - 27.3 we will provide you with support for the Bill, as needed, for the remaining parliamentary stages.

## Recommendations

28. We recommend that you:

- a) **note** that Cabinet is likely to make decisions in the next few days on which, if any, business from the previous Parliament should be reinstated this term;
- b) **note** the arguments for and against reinstating the Electoral (Lowering Voting Age for Local Elections and Polls) Legislation Bill as outlined in this paper;
- c) **note** that, in the context of clear direction that the Government does not support progressing the Bill, our advice is to not reinstate the Bill;
- d) **note** that you may wish to discuss with your Cabinet colleagues (particularly the Minister of Justice and the Leader of the House), and coalition partners (if appropriate), whether or not the Bill should be reinstated before Cabinet makes decisions on the reinstatement motion; and
- e) **agree** to forward a copy of this briefing to the Minister of Justice.

Yes/No



Michael Lovett  
Deputy Chief Executive, Local Government



Hon Simeon Brown  
Minister of Local Government

2/12/23

## Document Eight

**From:** [nathan.croft@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:nathan.croft@parliament.govt.nz)  
**To:** [Amanda Shaw](#)  
**Cc:** [Michael Smith](#); [Rowan Burns](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Procedure for withdrawing a Bill before select committee  
**Date:** 08 December 2023 11:58:10  
**Attachments:** [LOH reinstatement letter - Simeon Brown.pdf](#)

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Hi Amanda,

The Leader of the House has written to the Minister regarding the voting age Bill requesting the Minister come to a view on discharging it. The Minister has asked that I draft a letter advising that he wishes to discharge the Bill. Could you please draft this letter by COB Wednesday 14 December? I'm going to double check the steps after the decision to discharge the Bill.

Cheers,  
Nathan

**Nathan Croft** | Private Secretary Local Government | Office of Hon Simeon Brown  
9(2)(a)

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**From:** Amanda Shaw <Amanda.Shaw@dia.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 6 December 2023 8:37 AM  
**To:** Nathan Croft <Nathan.Croft@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Cc:** Michael Smith <Michael.Smith@dia.govt.nz>; Rowan Burns <Rowan.Burns@dia.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Procedure for withdrawing a Bill before select committee

Hi Nathan

We had a chat with someone from the Office of the Clerk a few weeks back to understand the procedure if the Minister wanted to withdraw a Bill which is before select committee (before the committee completes its process).

This is our understanding of the process, however, it would be best to double-check this from your end in case anything has changed.

**Step 1:** Minister in charge of the bill can write to the select committee and inform them that they do not wish to progress the bill and ask them to report it with that recommendation. The committee cannot be compelled to do this. No matter how little consideration or time has been spent on the bill, the committee can say what it likes in its report and any party can put a minority view in that report.

**Step 2:** Following the report of the select committee, the Minister in charge can discharge the bill by informing the Clerk (an email is fine).  
OR the bill proceeds to second reading and a vote is held, and it can be voted down.

The current status of the voting age Bill is that submissions have closed and we would expect the Justice Committee to shortly:

- ask us for an initial briefing (which we will prepare in co-ordination with Justice and the Electoral Commission), and then

- start hearing oral submissions.

Just let me know if you have any questions.

**Amanda Shaw** | Kaitātari Kaupapahere Mātāmua (Principal Policy Analyst)

Ue te Hīnātore (Local Government Branch) | Te Tari Taiwhenua (The Department of Internal Affairs)

9(2)(a)

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## Document Nine

Hon Simeon Brown  
Minister of Local Government  
Parliament Buildings  
**WELLINGTON**

7 December 2023

Dear Simeon,

### **Responsibility for legislation reinstated in the 54<sup>th</sup> Parliament**

On 4 December 2023, Cabinet agreed to reinstate all House business from the previous Parliament, including all Government bills. Cabinet also invited Ministers with responsibility for reinstated bills to seek advice on whether the bills should be progressed under this Government. Ministers were further invited, upon receiving this advice, to consult with me as Leader of the House on whether or not to discharge the bills, as well as the preferred report back dates for bills before select committee which are to be progressed.

Now that the reinstatement motion has been agreed in the House I am writing to you because you have responsibility for a reinstated bill. As Minister for Local Government, you are responsible for the Electoral (Lowering Voting Age for Local Elections and Polls) Legislation Bill, which is currently before the Justice Committee. If you wish to proceed with this bill, I have received advice suggesting a report back date in June 2024 may be appropriate.

Once you have sought advice and come to a view on whether the above bill should be progressed by the Government, and, if so, a suggested report back date from select committee, I ask that you provide this information to me by 18 December. At this time, I will consult with you as needed on final decisions around discharging the bill, which must be made by 20 December.

If either me or my office can be of assistance to you in coming to a view on discharging the bill, or preferred select committee report back dates, we would be happy to do so.

Yours sincerely



Hon Chris Bishop  
Leader of the House

## Document 10

**From:** [Rowan Burns](#)  
**To:** [Tim Fahey](#)  
**Cc:** [Amanda Shaw](#); [Michael Smith](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Procedure for withdrawing a Bill before select committee  
**Date:** 08 December 2023 13:14:31  
**Attachments:** [LOH reinstatement letter - Simeon Brown.pdf](#)

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Kia ora Tim, can you please hold the pen on a response to Hon Bishop in relation to the attached. It doesn't need to be long, or go into much detail about rationale for the withdrawal - half a page is probably ample.

Michael can you please peer review Tim's draft

Can I please see a copy by Tuesday afternoon

Thanks

Rowan Burns  
Department of Internal Affairs

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## Document 11

**From:** [Tim Fahey](#)  
**To:** [xxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxx.xxx.xx](#)  
**Cc:** [Amanda Shaw](#); [Michael Smith](#); [Aakaansha Lal](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Procedure for withdrawing a Bill before select committee  
**Date:** 12 December 2023 16:06:23  
**Attachments:** [Letter to Leader of the House about reinstatement briefing.docx](#)  
[image001.png](#)

---

Tēnā koe Natha

Please see the attached draft response to the Hon Chris Bishop attached and [linked here](#).

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Ngā mihi

**Tim Fahey** ([he/him](#)) | Kaitātari Kaupapahere – Policy Analyst

Ue te Hīnātore | Local Government Branch

**Department of Internal Affairs | Te Tari Taiwhenua**

45 Pipitea Street | PO Box 805, Wellington 6140, New Zealand | [www.dia.govt.nz](http://www.dia.govt.nz)



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**Hon Simeon Brown**

**MP for Pakuranga**

Minister for Energy

Minister for Auckland

Minister of Local Government

Minister of Transport

Deputy Leader of the House



**COR001**

Hon Chris Bishop  
Leader of the House  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington

^[Date]

Dear Chris,

**Responsibility for local government legislation reinstated in the 54th Parliament**

Thank you for your letter dated 7 December 2023 requesting that I consider whether the Government proceeds with a reinstated bill which I am responsible for, the Electoral (Lowering Voting Age for Local Elections and Polls) Legislation Bill. This Bill is currently in front of the Justice Committee.

I recommend that this Bill not be progressed further and be withdrawn from consideration by the Justice Committee. I will await further consultation with yourself around the discharge procedures.

Thank you again for writing.

Yours sincerely,

Hon Simeon Brown  
**Minister of Local Government**

## Document 13

**From:** [Tim Fahey](#)  
**To:** [nathan.croft@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:nathan.croft@parliament.govt.nz)  
**Cc:** [Amanda Shaw](#); [Rowan Burns](#); [Aakaansha Lal](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Letter to the Justice Committee re voting age Bill  
**Date:** 13 December 2023 16:06:10  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[Letter to Justice Committee about reinstatement briefing.docx](#)

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Tēnā koe Nathan

Please see the attached and [linked](#) letter to the Justice Committee.

If you have any questions, please let us know.

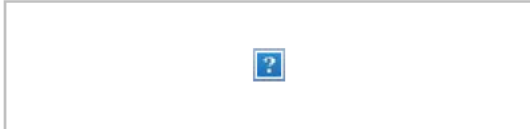
Ngā mihi

**Tim Fahey** ([he/him](#)) | Kaitātari Kaupapahere – Policy Analyst

Ue te Hīnātore | Local Government Branch

**Department of Internal Affairs | Te Tari Taiwhenua**

45 Pipitea Street | PO Box 805, Wellington 6140, New Zealand | [www.dia.govt.nz](http://www.dia.govt.nz)



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**From:** Tim Fahey <[Tim.Fahey@dia.govt.nz](mailto:Tim.Fahey@dia.govt.nz)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, December 13, 2023 2:55 PM

**To:** Rowan Burns <[Rowan.Burns@dia.govt.nz](mailto:Rowan.Burns@dia.govt.nz)>; [nathan.croft@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:nathan.croft@parliament.govt.nz)

**Cc:** Amanda Shaw <[Amanda.Shaw@dia.govt.nz](mailto:Amanda.Shaw@dia.govt.nz)>

**Subject:** RE: Letter to the Justice Committee re voting age Bill

Hi Rowan

Writing it now!

Thanks

Tim

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**From:** Rowan Burns <[Rowan.Burns@dia.govt.nz](mailto:Rowan.Burns@dia.govt.nz)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, December 13, 2023 2:46 PM

**To:** [nathan.croft@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:nathan.croft@parliament.govt.nz); Tim Fahey <[Tim.Fahey@dia.govt.nz](mailto:Tim.Fahey@dia.govt.nz)>

**Cc:** Amanda Shaw <[Amanda.Shaw@dia.govt.nz](mailto:Amanda.Shaw@dia.govt.nz)>

**Subject:** Re: Letter to the Justice Committee re voting age Bill

Thanks Nathan, yep we're on to it

Tim, can you please pick this up, for me to review by 3.30pm

Rowan Burns

Department of Internal Affairs

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**From:** Nathan Croft <[xxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, December 13, 2023 2:44:14 PM

**To:** Rowan Burns <[xxxxx.xxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:xxxxx.xxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx)>

**Cc:** Amanda Shaw <[xxxxxx.xxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxx.xxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx)>

**Subject:** Letter to the Justice Committee re voting age Bill

Hi Rowan,

By 4pm today, could you please draft a short letter to the Justice Committee stating that the Government does not intend to progress the voting age Bill. We have been told this needs to be done before tomorrow.

Cheers,  
Nathan

**Nathan Croft** | Private Secretary Local Government | Office of Hon Simeon Brown  
9(2)(a)

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**Hon Simeon Brown**

MP for Pakuranga

Minister for Energy

Minister for Auckland

Minister of Local Government

Minister of Transport

Deputy Leader of the House



COR001

James Meager  
Chairperson  
Justice Committee  
Parliament Buildings

^[Date]

Dear James,

**Request to report back local government legislation reinstated in the 54<sup>th</sup> Parliament**

The Electoral (Lowering Voting Age for Local Elections and Polls) Legislation Bill has been reinstated, and sits before the Justice Committee.

The Government does not intend to support this Bill in further parliamentary stages. I request that the Committee ends consideration of this Bill and reports it back to the House. Please inform me once the Committee has decided on this matter.

Thank you for your work on this Bill.

Yours sincerely,

Hon Simeon Brown  
**Minister of Local Government**

## Document 15

**From:** [Amanda Shaw](#)  
**To:** [xxxxxxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.x\\*](#) [xxx.xxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx](#)  
**Subject:** Voting age Bill - Justice Committee  
**Date:** 18 December 2023 13:59:32  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[Letter to Justice Committee about reinstatement briefing.docx](#)

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Kia ora korua

We've been contacted by the Justice Committee staff this morning about the voting age Bill. I was just wondering if there's any update from your end about the discharge of this Bill?

This is not urgent. As directed, we are not currently doing any work on the Bill but let me know if you need anything from us.

Ngā mihi  
Amanda

**Amanda Shaw** | Kaitātari Kaupapahere Mātāmua (Principal Policy Analyst)  
Ue te Hīnātore (Local Government Branch) | Te Tari Taiwhenua (The Department of Internal Affairs)

9(2)(a)

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## Document 16

**From:** [Amanda Shaw](#)  
**To:** [Eve Lucinsky](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Voting age Bill - Justice Committee  
**Date:** 21 December 2023 14:47:30  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Thanks

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**From:** Eve Lucinsky <xxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xxx.xx>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 21, 2023 2:44 PM  
**To:** Amanda Shaw <xxxxxx.xxx@xxx.xxx.xx>; xxxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xxt.nz  
**Subject:** RE: Voting age Bill - Justice Committee

Hi Amanda – my apologies just cleaning out my inbox and can't remember if I confirmed with you last night – Letter was sent to the Justice committee last night, will keep you in the loop as to any response.

Ngā mihi  
Eve

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## Document 17

**From:** [Amanda Shaw](#)  
**To:** [Handley, Georgie](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Release of the final IER report and voting age  
**Date:** 15 January 2024 13:42:55

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Hi Georgie

Happy New Year to you too.

As discussed, we understand that the Minister of Local Government has written to the chair of the Justice Committee advising that the Government does not intend to progress the voting age Bill.

We understand that the next step is that the Committee will consider whether to report the Bill back to the House immediately, and if so the Minister will write to the clerk to withdraw the Bill.

Amanda

**Amanda Shaw** | Kaitātari Kaupapahere Mātāmua (Principal Policy Analyst)  
Ue te Hīnāture (Local Government Branch) | Te Tari Taiwhenua (The Department of Internal Affairs)

9(2)(a)

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**From:** Handley, Georgie <Georgie.Handley@justice.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 15, 2024 1:23 PM  
**To:** Amanda Shaw <xxxxxx.xxxx@xxx.xxxx.nz>  
**Subject:** Release of the final IER report and voting age

Happy New Year! Hope it is going well so far.

We have just been informed that the final IER report is set to be released tomorrow morning, but subject to last minute confirmation tomorrow. Will let you know if and when it happens.

On another note I have been asked to provide some info on the voting age for our annual review document. Last I heard the bill had been reinstated but the Govt won't be progressing it. I have added a note that that effect in the doc, making it clear that it is not yet publicly known.

Assuming you haven't heard any updates from your MO?

Thanks

Georgie