

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AMENDMENT BILL 2003

Assembly's Amendment

Amendment made by the Assembly now considered.

Committee

The Deputy Chairman of Committees (Hon Jon Ford) in the Chair; Hon Jim Scott in charge of the Bill.

The amendment made by the Assembly was as follows -

Clause 4, page 2, lines 13 to 15 - To delete the lines.

Hon JIM SCOTT: I move -

That the amendment made by the Assembly be agreed to.

I would like to thank all the people who have helped facilitate the passage of this piece of legislation. I thank the Leader of the House, the minister, and members in the other place.

Hon Simon O'Brien: Don't forget those other people behind the scenes.

Hon JIM SCOTT: Indeed. I particularly make reference to the member for Churchlands, who took responsibility for the legislation in the other place. I must also thank the Opposition in this case because it helped get it as far as the other place. In a rather unusual set of circumstances, the Bill was supported by the Opposition but not by the Government, and then went to the other place and was supported by the Government. The Bill has now come back to this place with an amendment, which means it will be the very position it was when I presented it. That has nothing to do with my cleverness. The amendment has been put forward in the past. It was originally suggested by former Information Commissioner Ms Bronwyn Keighley-Gerardy. A private member also previously put it to the Chamber. It is particularly good to have the legislation back in the form proposed, because it means it will be exactly the same as the legislation in other jurisdictions in this country.

Hon Nick Griffiths: Is this your valedictory speech?

Hon JIM SCOTT: No, it is not.

Hon Simon O'Brien: It might be.

Hon JIM SCOTT: It could be. A person who pushed this legislation very hard is in the gallery today. He is Peter Kasprzak. He has worked very hard to keep my nose and other people's noses to the grindstone to get this piece of legislation through. As a result, the legislation will make a great deal of difference to people seeking information that agencies might not otherwise like to give out. Agencies would have continued to use the excuse of something being under investigation to prevent information being passed on.

I thank all those people who have helped with this Bill. I recognise that the Government wants to get on with its legislation. I note the presence of the member for Churchlands, who took the legislation through the other place so successfully. I seek the support of members for the amended legislation to enable it to come into being.

Question put and passed; the Assembly's amendment agreed to.

Report

Resolution reported, the report adopted, and a message accordingly returned to the Assembly.