



## Petition 2008/26 of Vince Siemer and 100 others

Report of the Justice and Electoral  
Committee

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The Justice and Electoral Committee has considered Petition 2008/26 of Vince Siemer and 100 others, requesting that the House of Representatives urgently amend the Public Records Act 2005 to make it a mandatory requirement that all court proceedings be digitally audio-recorded and, upon formal request of a litigation party to the registrar, CD copies of this official record are provided to the requesting party, and has no matters to bring to the attention of the House.

Over the past eight years the recording and transcribing of court proceedings in New Zealand has changed significantly. Much progress has been made in the recording, transferring, and storing of court proceedings using digital audio technology. We understand that the Ministry of Justice expects it to be another three to six years before this technology will become the dominant method of recording and transcription. We further note that requiring the courts to make available audio recordings of proceedings, as the petitioner proposes, would remove the important and necessary control of the judiciary over access to court information.

Chester Borrows  
Chairperson