

**McDonald, David S**

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**From:** Lucas Doran [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** March 13, 2025 7:35 PM  
**To:** Office of the Legislative Counsel  
**Subject:** Public Bills Committee - Bill 1 Written Comments

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Please find below my written comments to the Public Bills Committee regarding Bill 1:

I am a resident of Electoral District 17 - Dartmouth East. I am writing to the Public Bills committee with concerns about the omnibus bill the governing Progressive Conservative party has tabled.

I am pleased to see clauses 1-7 have been withdrawn. I still have concerns about the trends in this government to obfuscate information:

Specifically:

- Dismantling Communications Nova Scotia
- Removing the list showing how many residents are waiting for primary care physicians
- Unnecessarily requiring more specific details about the information being sought in a request for information, which could be abused by officials.
- Granting public bodies broad, discretionary powers to "disregard" requests for information, and not limiting this to "vexatious" requests or requiring the prior approval of the Information and Privacy Commissioner, as better practice jurisdictions do.
- Giving the Attorney General, who is also the Minister of Justice, conclusive power to declare certain information as being subject to solicitor-client privilege.
- Giving ministers the power to block the public release of reports by the Auditor General on the vague grounds that this is "in the public interest".

I am concerned that the Houston PC's are giving themselves too much unfettered power with these changes and I urge them to reconsider.

I am very disappointed that the Houston PC government, which promised positive reforms to the local access law, is now actively seeking to obstruct access.

If the Houston PC's could advocate for transparency I would greatly appreciate it - especially given Mr. Houston's history of speaking on this issue specifically when in opposition.

We need to work on solving the real issues, not spend time hiding information from Nova Scotians.

Respectfully,

Lucas Doran