

**Submission  
No 250**

**INQUIRY INTO PROVISIONS OF THE FIREARMS AND  
WEAPONS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (CRIMINAL  
USE) BILL 2020**

**Name:** Mr Roy Williams

**Date Received:** 14 August 2020

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Dear Committee,

I am writing to express my concern over aspects of the Firearms and Weapons Legislation (Criminal Use) 2020 bill. I have been involved in shooting sports for 18 years (since the age of 12) and believe this legislation poses a risk to the legitimate activities of firearms licence holders.

This legislation which aims to further police powers to prevent the criminal manufacture of firearms infringes on the rights of those who have an interest in manufacturing firearms for legitimate purposes. Any person who has an interest in the design or manufacture of firearms from a purely intellectual point of view is adversely affected. This legislation is based on the assumption that anyone who manufactures firearms is doing so for criminal purposes.

From my point of view the way the legislation is worded such as possessing a precursor of a firearms part such as a digital blueprint is basically criminalising thought. The legal principle of being guilty of an offence if the offender intended to commit an act AND actually committed the act is lost in this legislation. A person who plans to drive somewhere when drunk and subsequently changes their mind because of their better judgement is not guilty of an offence. I would argue that this aspect of the legislation regarding precursors of firearms parts be removed entirely because of the vagueness and open-ended subjectivity of how it might be interpreted.

The legitimate possession of firearms parts is infringed in this legislation. Say we have a firearms licence holder who has some spare parts for a firearm which they own who is authorised to possess them by their licence. And say for arguments sake that they own tools that could possibly be used to manufacture firearms parts. If they are accused of manufacturing parts found in their possession, unless there is a video recording of the accused from start to finish actually making the part, how does one prove or disprove such an allegation? It is not possible to prove or disprove such an allegation.

This may leave the powers of the police open to interpretation and that power may be misused. In my opinion this legislation is a perfect example of police overreach. I also believe it is not coherent with basic principles of law.

Yours sincerely,  
Roy Williams