

17th July 2023.

To whom it may concern,

I am very concerned that government thinks it has the power to decide what constitutes misinformation and disinformation. No one body is the arbiter of all information in the whole world, this is simply impossible.

We source our information from many outlets including directly from someone who is in the middle of a situation. It is entirely possible that the information divulged by that person is entirely true and gives a unique perspective on a situation. But because their personal experience does not fit with a mainstream narrative they must be lying at worst or misinforming or providing disinformation.

Who is the government to tell me this person's actual experience is not true? How does government know? Fact checkers on social media are not infallible, neither are they all seeing, all knowing, omnipotent beings who can see into the lives and experiences of everyone right across the globe.

To say I find the proposed bill an overreach is an understatement. George Orwell's *Thought Police* come to mind. Having the freedom to have an opinion and to voice that opinion is true democracy. People may not like what I have to say but I ought to be able to say it. Most people are reasonable they are



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not planning terrorist attacks, and I do not see why the majority
should be sanctioned for the activities of the few.

Diane M. Finlay.

