

REMINDER: Press Benches in Courtrooms

Press benches must be accessible for media use during court time

The Ministry is obliged to ensure that press benches are accessible in High Court and District Court courtrooms for press (media) representatives.

Depending on the courtroom and its size, the press bench setup may range from a single chair and table, part of a shared bench, through to a designated bench with several chairs.

If a courtroom has limited space and cannot permanently accommodate a press bench, a suitable temporary solution must be arranged when needed.

In situations where there are more media than can be accommodated at the press bench, alternative seating within the courtroom must be arranged, and the presiding judge should be notified accordingly.

This messaging is also published on the [Ministry of Justice](#) and [Courts of New Zealand](#) websites.

At a minimum, a press bench setup should include the following:

- **Designated chair and a desk, table/bench or shared bench space** for at least one media representative.
- **Clear signage** indicating that the space is designated for media-only.
- **Accessible power outlets** (e.g. for device charging).

Examples of press bench setups:



Photo 1 - Standalone press bench with chairs

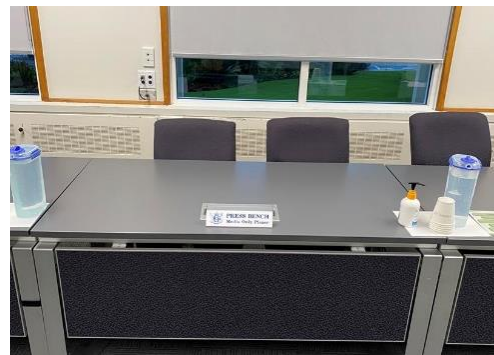


Photo 2 - Shared bench with designated seating for media-only



Photo 3 - Designated chair with a foldout table (only suggested for courtrooms with very limited space)



Photo 4 – Examples of clear signage

To order furniture for a press bench

Additional or replacement items for a press bench can be ordered here [Order furniture | JET — Ministry of Justice Intranet](#) (use the order form under the 'Replacement Furniture and Workplace Assessments' section).