



9 August 2016

Hon Peter Dunne
MP for Ōhāriu
Leader of United Future
Level 11, Bowen House

Dear Mr Dunne

Thank you for your letter of 21 July regarding Youth Parliament 2016. I acknowledge and agree with your concerns and hope to address these for the future.

Youth Parliament 2016 was led and funded by the Ministry of Youth Development (MYD). All decision-making, including around broadcasting, was carried out by the Ministry in consultation with key parliamentary staff.

The Clerk of the House has advised that the idea of live broadcasting was first raised in August 2015. This was rejected by Ministry officials due to the potential risk of broadcasting defamatory material and their view that a live broadcast would have a “chilling” effect on some of the participants. At that stage, there would have been plenty of time for any legal and other concerns to have been addressed.

In June this year, the Clerk also offered to provide, at the Ministry’s cost, a live broadcast of the event to the precinct, plus footage for the media and the Ministry to use immediately after the event. This was rejected by the Ministry on the basis of cost, which was estimated to be \$5,000 for the two days. Unfortunately, requests to broadcast Youth Parliament while the event was taking place were unrealistic and could not be accommodated at such short notice.

The rules for photography and filming, had been set up as they would during normal sitting times in order to make the experience as authentic as possible for youth MPs. However, the balance between delivery of an authentic experience and ensuring accessibility, youth engagement and media outreach is certainly something that needs to be reviewed in planning for future Youth Parliaments.

Taking photographs from the galleries is a safety concern, hence it was important to enforce the rule not allowing visitors to carry cell phones or cameras. I believe this issue can be addressed in the future through careful planning of Youth Parliament live broadcasting.

I believe that, in the future the Office of the Clerk should play a greater role in arranging the Parliamentary side of the event. The Clerk of the House is prepared to accept this responsibility.

The Office is in a position to coordinate arrangements for broadcasting, filming and photography of the event here at Parliament.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. Carter', enclosed within a large, loopy oval shape.

Rt Hon. David Carter
SPEAKER

COPY

OFFICE OF THE
HON. PETER DUNNE

21 JUL 2016

DISPATCHED

21 July 2016

Rt Hon David Carter
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Level 1 Parliament House
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Dear Mr Carter

I was astounded to discover the recent Youth Parliament was not telecast on the Parliament channel nor broadcast on radio.

I think this creates a very bad look for Parliament, as not in tune with current communication trends. It is ironic this should be the case, given the focus on the leaders of the future and I think it left a very unfortunate impression that Parliament was still rooted in the past.

I think that impression was further complicated by your apparent ruling that members of the public were not able to photograph or film speeches on their phones during the Parliamentary debates. For many families who had come to see their son or daughter participating this was a blow, as it was to many Members of Parliament who had undertaken to film their Youth MPs so they could see themselves performing in the Parliamentary chamber.

As you know, in the event, many ignored the ruling and carried on anyway. Be that as it may, but I believe the combination of circumstances created a very bad look for Parliament and definitely needs to be revised before the next Youth Parliament takes place.

Yours sincerely

Hon Peter Dunne
MP for Ōhāriu
Leader of UnitedFuture