



# Ministry of JUSTICE

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Dan Copley  
National Youth Advocacy Service  
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23 July 2007

*Dear Mr Copley*

## **NYAS Youth Discussion Group**

I have recently acquired ministerial responsibility for the family courts and I therefore want to take this opportunity to thank all of the young people who took part in the discussion group facilitated by the National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS) on behalf of the Family Justice Council (FJC) and CAFCASS on increasing transparency in family courts. Officials tell me that the group has dedicated significant time and effort to this project, particularly in considering the role of the press. Following your contributions, as well as the contributions of many other groups and individuals, the Government has decided:

- **Not to allow the media** and others with an interest to attend family proceedings involving children as of right. Instead, they will be able to apply to the court to attend.
- To develop an **online information hub** to provide better information for children and families about the family court service.
- To **pilot the provision of better information** for people involved in proceedings, including to retain the judgment or a summary of the judgment made in particular types of case for the children involved, so that they can request it when they are older.

We are now consulting on your view that children and young people who are the subject of proceedings should have anonymity during and after the conclusion of a case, unless there is an order by the court to say otherwise (where anonymity is not in the best interests of the child).

I very much hope that I will have the opportunity to meet with some of the young people involved in the near future.

Yours sincerely

*Bridget Prentice*

**BRIDGET PRENTICE**