



Response to the Review of Higher Education and Student Finance in England

12/10/2010

The UK Youth Parliament is against the proposed lift in the tuition fees cap, as recommended by the Browne review. We believe that lifting the cap will further force young people to make financially driven choices when it comes to choosing where and what to study.

UK Youth Parliament research has shown that 95% of under 18s are opposed to any lift in the cap on tuition fees (currently £3,290 per year) and 1 in 3 say their choice of university will be dependent on the cost associated with the institution and course.

We support a form of graduate contribution, whereby graduates pay back a percentage of their salary over a set period of time.

Finally, we do not believe that those whom this will affect (i.e. primarily young people under the age of 18) have been adequately consulted throughout the course of the Browne review and we are calling on the Government to extensively consult with young people under the age of 18 on any proposed changes to university funding.

Harrison Carter, 17, Member of Youth Parliament for Sheffield said,

"Fees themselves are unfair and act as a barrier to education, widening the rich-poor divide which exists in this country. How can anybody believe that raising them to this eye watering level will at all solve this problem? I and many other members of the UK Youth Parliament seriously condemn this action."

"The news that fees are set to go up, and that the graduate tax is to be dropped is truly worrying for young people. I intend to continue fighting this injustice until reform is achieved. We can voice our anger at this by uniting."

Andy Hamflett, Chief Executive of the UK Youth Parliament said,

"We are deeply concerned that young people under the age of 18, those whom increased fees will actually hit, haven't been adequately consulted about the proposed changes to university funding.

"Young people up and down the country, starting secondary school, studying for their GCSEs, or thinking about A-levels – those are the ones who will be making life changing choices, based on adult reviews and decisions made behind closed doors. It is essential that the Government demonstrates they are in tune with young people's views, by widely consulting under 18 year-olds and establishing the impact upon this group, before any legislative change to university funding is introduced."