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Dear Hamira,

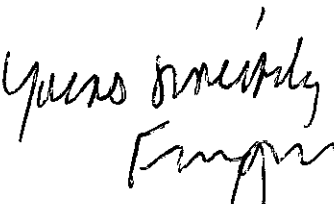
I am writing to thank you for the kind hospitality offered to me at the We-CTV Award Ceremony last night. I had a wonderful evening and was honoured to be asked to speak and present the overall winners award.

It was clear to see that through the tremendous hard work of the Scottish Youth Parliament and all partners involved in this truly innovative project, you have made a significant and positive impact on the young people involved. Educating young people about the dangers and consequences of carrying knives is absolutely key in the drive to tackle knife crime in Scotland and we have to continue to seek innovative and creative ways of getting the message across. I believe projects like this can make a real difference in this effort.

All the young people whose films were celebrated last night, as well as others who have been involved in this project, should be extremely proud of themselves. The films were moving, powerful, imaginative and testament to the fact that young people have an extremely important role to play in spreading the message amongst their peers.

I'm keen to see how we can build on what has already been a great success. I'm sure that the Scottish Youth Parliament has plans to celebrate and share these films throughout its networks. Officials within the Community Safety Unit will also consider how these films can now be used in the work we do with young people as part of the No Knives, Better Lives campaign.

Again, congratulations on this excellent project and please pass on my thanks to all involved in making it such a success.


FERGUS EWING