

## DIE Board Hearing Application 2019

<b>Submission Date</b>	2020-03-06 13:37:35
<b>Name</b>	Lochlann Kerr
<b>E-mail</b>	
<b>Phone Number</b>	
<b>This application is for a:</b>	Appeal of a Chief Returning Officer Ruling
<b>Reason</b>	<p>The CRO ruled that The Gateway DFU referendum campaign would not be reimbursed external expenses incurred during the election due to the expense form being submitted late. Although we recognize that the election nomination package does stipulate this as policy, we are requesting an overruling or change to the CRO's decision on the basis of proportionality between infraction and punishment. When the expense report was submitted 28 minutes late, the CRO was informed that due to a volunteer not submitting to us a receipt proving costs incurred by the campaign until shortly before the 1pm deadline. With limited time and ability to communicate (due to key members of the campaign being in class) it was decided to submit a complete report late rather than submit a falsified report on time. The ruling from the CRO was that \$364.62 in external expenses would not be reimbursed. This decision, though technically in line with policy, is neither a punishment for the campaign nor a proportional response. A fine issued to the campaign budget (which finished the election with nearly \$300 unspent), even if the fine was \$364.62, would be a punishment for the campaign itself. Not reimbursing the expenses incurred by individual volunteers is a punishment on those who chose to contribute their time and money to a newspaper for which they are not employed, and for a referendum out of which they would have received no personal benefit. Secondly, we believe that a personal cost of over \$350 is an overly large cost for a report filed just under half an hour late, particularly given that we posit that the tardiness of the application did not likely impact the functioning of the CRO's office. Barring evidence from the CRO that the delay caused a disruption in the operations of the elections office, incurring a personal cost of this magnitude is disjoint from the actual impacts of submitting the report late. We recognize the importance of following deadlines, and we apologize for the report being late, but are requesting that DIE board review the ruling of the CRO on their decision to not reimburse volunteers for cost incurred during the 2020 elections. (We were unable to attach relevant finance documents, which can be emailed to DIE board if requested)</p>
<b>Proposed Respondent</b>	Muneeb Ahsan (CRO) Harman Kang (DRO) Emma Jones Beth Blanchette
<b>Anticipated Witness</b>	NA

Signature

L Kern