

Complaint: OMSA 16/014
Complainant: R. Williams
Media: Television New Zealand, ONE News Now and Facebook
Publication: “Carlos Takam dishes not funny NZ comedian a spray after ‘kiss arse’ remark”.
Publication date: Wednesday 18 May 2016
Link: <https://www.tvnz.co.nz/one-news/sport/other/carlos-takam-dishes-not-funny-nz-comedian-spray-after-kiss-arse-remark>
Ruling Date: 7 June 2016
Outcome: No Grounds to Proceed

The Complainant, R. Williams, said:

“1a. - Comedy is subjective. They are reporting biased opinions as facts.
3c. - Guy Williams is unfairly identified as a 'not funny comedian'. Comedy is subjective.
6. - The denigration is solely due to Guy Williams' occupational status. He works for Mediaworks. TVNZ's rival.”

The Complainant considered the relevant provisions of the OMSA Code of Standards were: Part A Standard 1 Accuracy, Guideline 1a, Part B Standard 3 Fairness, Guideline 3c and Part C Social Responsibility, Standard 6 Discrimination and Denigration.

The Chairman accepted the Complainant considered the content to be misleading, unfair and denigrated Guy Williams because he was employed by a competitor.

The Chairman held the content was comment on behaviour by Mr Williams at a recent news conference and therefore Standard 1 did not apply.

Part B of the Code required complaints to be brought by the person or organisation referred to in the content or their representative / caregiver. In this instance, the Chairman held as the complaint was not from Mr Williams, Standard 3 Fairness did not apply.

In relation to the application of Standard 6 to the complaint the Chairman held that as employment by a competitor was not a listed ground for discrimination or denigration, Standard 6 did not apply.

Accordingly, the Chairman ruled the content was not in breach of the Code of Standards and there no grounds for the complaint to proceed.

Chairman’s Ruling: No Grounds to Proceed

Content: The TVNZ article included a video of the boxer Carlos Takam being interviewed at a press conference. The article was titled: “Carlos Takam dishes not funny NZ comedian a spray after 'kiss arse' remark” stated, in part: “The French heavyweight boxer needed an interpreter at today's presser – but was none too happy at the translation.” The video showed a segment



of the press conference where Carlos Takam said he enjoyed New Zealand's varied traditions and culture. Mediaworks comedian, Guy Williams, was heard in the background saying "oh stop kissing our arse."