

Accountability Report

March 2026



WHAT I SET OUT TO ACHIEVE AND WHAT I DELIVERED

Improving student housing rights and affordability

Following the successful Housing (Scotland) Bill campaign, my focus shifted to implementation. I now sit on the Scottish Parliament PBSA Review Group and the City of Edinburgh Student Housing Working Group, advocating for stronger protections and more affordable student accommodation.

Reducing gender-based violence

Funding has been secured to introduce the Consent Module into student halls contracts, expected from 2026/27. With over 2,500 rooms in halls, this will significantly increase participation in prevention training, making students more aware of what is appropriate and how to report inappropriate behaviour, creating a safer campus environment.

2026 Scottish Parliament elections

I contributed to the NUS Scotland Student Manifesto and speaking at its launch event to highlight student priorities. We currently have our election survey out that will allow the Union to most effectively run a voter reg campaign in End of March & April. The higher % of students that vote the more politicians will be inclined to support student issues.

OTHER WINS AND PROJECTS

Saudi Arabia Campus Discussions

I raised student concerns in university committees regarding the proposed campus expansion. While the proposal ultimately passed, I ensured student voices were clearly heard and secured ongoing Students' Union involvement in the next stages of the project to continue advocating for student safety and ethical considerations.

SHAG Week

Delivered a week of inclusive, educational and engaging events across the Edinburgh and Galashiels campuses. Over 500 students participated in events, with further engagement through social media activity. As part of the campaign, 94 students signed the White Ribbon pledge committing to challenge violence against women.

History of the Students' Union Project

I initiated a new project to document the history of the Students' Union. A researcher has been appointed to gather and organise historical records into a clear

timeline. This work will help preserve the Unions memory and ensure future officers and students understand the Union's history, achievements and development.



DEMONSTRATED IMPACT ON THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Gender-Based Violence Prevention

Student data shows 14% of students report experiencing harassment, unwanted sexual attention or gender-based violence, while only 17% know where to access support. Securing funding to introduce the Consent Module into halls contracts from 2026/27 will significantly increase engagement with prevention training.

In the short term, this work is expected to increase awareness of consent and support services and may lead to higher reporting as students feel more confident seeking help. In the long term, better awareness and earlier intervention should contribute to a reduction in incidents, while strengthening trust in reporting systems such as Report and Support.

Overall leading to a safer university for all.

PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS

Strong Handover for the Next President

I have begun preparing for the transition to the next President. Holly and I met with the University Secretary and Chair of Court to discuss improvements to sabbatical officer inductions, particularly around navigating university governance structures. We advocated for additional training and support for incoming officers.

Longevity of Campaigns

To support the sustainability of national campaigns, I have stepped back from leading them directly and instead focus on supporting and mentoring first-year officers across Scotland. This allows new officers to take ownership of campaigns while still benefiting from the experience and networks developed during my term.

HOW STUDENTS SHAPED MY WORK

Student feedback and engagement have played a key role in shaping my priorities and decisions throughout the year.

Advice Hub Insights

Trends identified by the Advice Hub have helped highlight emerging student issues early. While officers do not work on individual cases, the patterns seen in advice enquiries often inform where our interventions are needed.

Student Representation Networks

I regularly attend Postgraduate Taught and Research Rep meetings to hear directly from student representatives about issues affecting their cohorts and gather views on current university discussions. I have also begun leading Societies Council, where I am now planning a student-led review of how societies operate.

Student Data and Evidence

Much of my work is shaped through student data. I regularly use insights from the Union's Big 6 survey data to ensure campaigns and priorities reflect the real experiences of students. As part of the consent campaign, I added questions on gender-based violence into the survey, to inform the campaigns focuses.

Direct Engagement with Student Leaders and Campaigners

I meet frequently with student campaigners to support their work and help progress student-led initiatives. I also attend spaces such as Department Officer meetings when relevant, most recently to gather student views regarding the Saudi Arabia campus discussions.

LEGACY AND LEADERSHIP

This year I have strengthened several leadership skills, particularly strategic lobbying, leading national campaigns, and navigating complex governance structures. Feedback gathered through my 360-review highlighted my ability to take on constructive feedback, adapt my approach, and continue developing my leadership style throughout the role.

One of the biggest challenges this year was encountering setbacks when proposals or campaign ideas were rejected. In several projects, including the consent campaign, progress required repeatedly finding new routes forward when initial approaches faced barriers.

Looking ahead, I hope my presidency leaves a legacy of strengthening the Students' Union as a campaigning organisation capable of achieving real change. This includes the structural improvements made through the democracy review, empowering more student campaigners, and contributing to national work that delivered meaningful policy change for students. This is proven by two of our newly elected FTO's come from our new campaign leaders.

In my final months, my focus will be on ensuring projects are brought to a strong and sustainable point, either completed or positioned well for the next team to continue. I will also prioritise supporting the transition to the incoming officers and ensuring a strong handover so that momentum on key issues can continue.