

Accountability Report - Student President



KEY OBJECTIVES

This term, I continued major projects from last year while expanding into new areas driven by student need. Across all of this work, my focus has been clear: improving everyday student lives and building long-term protections that will benefit students for years to come. My objectives were:

Reducing gender-based violence

My priority is increasing student engagement with the Consent Module and securing a fully mandatory rollout.

Improving student housing rights and affordability

My goals are better housing protections, improving students' wellbeing, security and ability to focus on their studies.

Strengthening student-led democracy and campaigns

I continued the implementation of last year's democracy review, aiming to build stronger, more accessible structures for student campaigning and decision-making.

Preparing students for the Scottish General Election in 2026

I began a new long-term campaign to empower students as informed voters and influence parties to prioritise student issues.

Cost of living support and rights education

My goal was to secure additional financial support for students in crisis and ensure all students understand the rights they already have.

WINS AND IMPACT

MANDATORY CONSENT TRAINING

Secured support from the Head of Wellbeing, Head of Student Experience Scotland, and Global Head of Student Experience.

Achieved major progress on integrating the Consent Module into halls contracts.

Completed 80% of the research required to address staff concerns for full mandatory rollout, including learning from universities across Scotland and England. Further meetings are scheduled to finish this.

Impact: Momentum is building toward safer campuses, clearer expectations, and stronger prevention of gender-based violence. Have seen an increase in % of students doing the consent module.

EXPANDED STUDENT CAMPAIGNS AND DEMOCRATIC STRUCTURES

Successfully established the new Student Executive team, improving decision-making efficiency and aligning with what students told us they needed.

Worked closely with our new Campaigns & Projects staff member to support multiple student-led campaigns, including the Palestine Society's building-renaming efforts.

Impact: Students now have clearer pathways to create change and influence the Union and University.



HOUSING IMPROVEMENTS LOCALLY AND NATIONALLY

As founder of the National Student Housing Campaign, I drafted our lobbying strategy, template and assisted other officers in their meetings with MSPs.

When the bill's timeline was unexpectedly shifted, I organised an emergency strategy meeting, a rally at parliament, and a mass email campaign that sent over 3,000 emails from students to MSPs.

With all of this work, the bill passed with major wins:

Top three wins for students:

- Fairer Rent: Rent can only be raised once per year with three months' notice, and rent challenges can no longer backfire.
- Rent Controls: Scotland can now introduce rent control areas – closing the loophole that allowed landlords to hike rent between tenants.
- Power to Create 28-Day Notice Rights in PBSA: Ministers can now introduce flexible notice periods for private and university halls.

Additions wins I lobbied for and won include:

- Fairer rules for joint tenancies
- Stronger damp and safety standards (Awaab's Law)
- The right to request pets or small home changes
- Better use of unclaimed deposits to support tenants
- Stronger eviction protections and earlier homelessness prevention
- Mandatory rent data collection, including student rents

Following these wins, I have been invited to sit on the national PBSA Review Subgroup as the main student representative for Scotland.

Impact: These reforms represent one of the largest tenant-rights victories in Scottish history. Students will have stronger protections, fairer costs, and more security both immediately and long-term.

According to one living rent staff organiser, "This was the most effective lobbying on the bill by miles."

COST OF LIVING SUPPORT

Secured an additional £10,000 for the Advice Hub to continue the hardship voucher scheme after overturning an initial rejection through targeted discussions with committee leaders.

Impact: Students facing crisis can continue to access immediate, practical support while waiting for hardship fund outcomes.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS PROJECT

Co-led the creation of a physical and digital booklet covering education, housing, employment, international student rights and more.

The project was driven by real student experiences and aims to empower students to use their rights confidently.

Impact: Students now have accessible, practical tools to advocate for themselves. This resource will be updated soon to reflect new housing protections.

COLLABORATION

I have worked closely with sabbatical officers across Scotland through national campaigns (housing, Scottish elections).

Shared knowledge with other unions on issues such as Palestine, drug use, and consent training.

Partnered with Union staff, especially the new Campaigns & Projects role, to empower student campaigners and implement the democracy review and get Student Exec up and running.

Impact: Collaboration strengthened campaigns, built officer capacity across Scotland, and created smoother structures within the Union.



DEVELOPMENT

I actively seek out differing opinions and use evidence, not just personal views, to guide decisions.

I embrace constructive feedback and make real changes based on it. Also, I have become more confident and creative in communications, including social media content that I once found intimidating.

Impact: This growth has made me a more effective advocate, communicator, and leader for students.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

Challenge: National Housing Bill timeline suddenly shortened

Response: Quickly coordinated an emergency response, mobilised students, and secured major legislative wins.

Challenge: Taking on too many projects at once

Response: With the housing campaign finished, I have empowered other officers nationally to lead on the election campaign to both reduce my workload but also support new officers' development.

PLAN CHANGES

My focus shifted from national housing campaigning into preparing students for the 2026 Scottish General Election once the Housing Bill passed.

This shift was necessary because no further legislation is expected before the election, and students told us they want clearer political education and representation.

I am now:

- Helping shape the NUS Scotland Student Manifesto
- Preparing to lobby MSPs to sign and support its demands
- Planning a student survey in the new year to focus the campaign on what matters most to students
- Developing communications to support voter registration and informed participation

Impact: This ensures student voices continue to shape political priorities at a national level.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

I have prioritised being visible, approachable, and actively present across the campus:

- Frequently walk around campus, where I stop to chat with students and signpost opportunities.
- Regular conversations with students in the Union building, especially during society activities.
- Monthly meetings with student campaigners to guide their projects and support lobbying.
- Attendance and chairing of PGR and PGT rep meetings; participation in Department Officer and Society Council meetings.
- Social media engagement ranging from fun, high-energy content to serious discussions on homelessness, cost of living, and housing rights.

Impact: Students see an accessible President they can approach informally or through structured channels, strengthening trust and engagement.

