



Student Officer Report - Welfare – Ciarán O'Brien

November/December

Housing:

- Student Renters Group (SRG) door knocks continued weekly on Wednesdays (with the occasional Thursday substitute) inside the Holylands and Stranmillis
- Advised a student project group within the business management school on important and useful features for developing a business site that would help students living in the private rental sector
- Continued to meet with Shelter NI and process the on-going legal campaign against various letting agents regarding their unlawful practice of charging letting fees
- Executed successful banner drop against GOC estate agents who have been prolific in discriminating against students regarding illegal fees – action resulted in very popular PR for the SRG
- Multiple short sticker runs promoting housing rights were ran and proved fruitful judging by the upsurge in emails to myself regarding deposits and letting fees charges
- Marks Out of Tenancy continues to grow slowly but surely – it is hoped this will increase before and after the upcoming house hunt surge in February
- A 'Haunted Housing Rights' VR project is underway to create a fun and competitive way of learning about housing rights and advice



- Met with Ulster University Students' Union – Magee and Belfast – to advise them on initial campaigns and structures to establish in order to create their own SRG

Sexual Health:

- Met with Belfast Social Care Trust to review and plan future activity for the weekly sexual health clinic and the promotion of order-to-home STI testing kits
- Set in motion plans for another World Record STI test day in February as part of an inter clubs and socs competition

Mental Health:

- Attended a 2-day training course concerning Mental Health First Aid training which prepared myself for how to appropriately respond to scenarios which do arise whereby students or staff come to confide in myself regarding mental distress or wellbeing
- Consulted with a final year student regarding a project on developing a single app for QUB wellbeing & SU advice services in order to provide and updated and streamlined access point for students in need
- Meet with Queen's Wellbeing to consult on which e-learning platform they provide to staff and students regarding mental health first aid training – it was strongly argued by myself the need for more formal in person delivery of this training, particularly for staff who will be present on student disciplinary and appeal panels

Additional Activity:

- Helped host Advice SU promotional events at Riddle Hall and the Maths & Physics building which delivered students info on the services we provide regarding finance and academia – focusing particularly on spreading awareness of hardship fund and student support for those students in financial difficulty
- Organised within the Climate Action Group est. by Ellen our Activities officer to fight for a Green New Deal at QUB
- UCU Strikes – was heavily involved with fellow Saabs in organising students in support of striking lecturers and staff before and during the 8-day UCU strike over pay and pensions which involved drafting an emergency council motion in support of the strike, making banners and



signs for solidarity and joining the daily picket and Alternative University event

- Stood in support of Irish language rights with An Cumann Gaelach in December, demanding bilingual signage on campus and further respect and resources to be granted to Gaeilgeoirí at Queen's
- Involved in helping craft multiple new constitutional amendments to make the SU a more transparent, accountable and grass-roots organisation
- Hosted a Night at Elmwood at the invite of Queen's Musical Theatre and Queens Symphony Orchestra
- Organised alongside comrades on council to defeat the neutrality motion regarding the SU' Pro-choice stance
- Co-organised and ran with fellow saabs a voter recruitment drive for the most recent British general election