

## Queen's Students' Union: Full-Time Student Officer Report

**Role:** Student Officer Welfare

**Name:** Jess Hindley

**Period Covered:** February 2024

### Introduction

As the Welfare Officer, my role is to represent the interests of students in all matters related to their welfare. This is a broad remit which includes improving issues related to housing, accommodation, student safety, physical health, sexual health, mental health, and wellbeing. To achieve this, I lobby relevant departments and people within the university and local government; engage with external and internal groups; and run student events throughout the year.

My main priorities this year include tackling issues relating to student housing, implementing comprehensive drug harm reduction mechanisms across Queen's, and fostering a consent culture across campus.

### Meetings

- Attended the **NUS and NUS-USI Policy Workshops** to develop our proposals for national conferences
- Chaired the first meeting of the student **Drug and Alcohol Harm Reduction Working Group**
- Raised student views on pregnancy tests in the SU Shop at **Commercial Services Forum**
- Attended the **EPS Wellbeing Committee** to learn about welfare concerns in the faculty
- Participated in the #QUBeWell '24 in 24' interviews
- Worked with the SU Volunteer manager and RAG Chair to **shortlist the RAG charities**
- Met with the Domestic Abuse Awareness Society and an SHR advisor regarding the **Safe Night Proposal**
- Met with **Active Communities** to discuss their **EmpowHER** campaign
- Attended #QUBeWell Management Board
- Attended **Academic Board** to discuss what students want from their **welcome experience**
- Met with the new **Safe and Healthy Relationships Group** which brings together groups from across campus to work on promoting student safety and healthy relationships
- Gave an **interview to the BBC about the student housing crisis**
- Chaired the first meeting of the **Drugs and Alcohol Impact Steering Group** to assess our progress so far and start planning for the next steps of the programme

### Events

- Assisted the SOS Bus team with their **library coffee evening**
- Attended the **SU Housing Fair**
- Visited by St. Andrews Student Association
- Attended the **Queen's Annual Fund Student Experience Celebration** event
- Participated in SU Volunteer's **Jump In event at Habitat ReStore**
- **Protested against weapons manufacturer Thales** being invited to campus
- Attended the fifth meeting of the **Student Council** to discuss the Democracy Review

### Training

- Participated in a **media training day** led by Macmillan Media where we improved our skills for radio and video interviews

- Participated in **Nexus NI's Active Bystander** training

#### Campaigns

- **Drug and Alcohol Impact (DAI)** – Attended several meetings to determine the operation of the programme
- **Welcome and Orientation** – Further meetings to shape up the SU's proposal to Education Committee for the new welcome experience

