

# Motion to specify responsibilities of “Welfare Officer” in the constitution

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## The Society Notes:

- As of Term 3 2024, the society holds elections for two Welfare Officer seats [1].
- Currently, the SU by-law 514 mandates that the society must have a minimum of one Welfare Officer to fulfill Core Officer role requirements, where it did not do so previously [2].
- Due to the timing and nature of these changes, the responsibilities of the Welfare Officer role were not incorporated into the constitution for the current academic year.

## The Society Believes:

- The responsibilities of the Welfare Officer role should be added to the constitution alongside the other core roles.
- Adding these responsibilities will ensure greater confidence in the role and better accountability for future Welfare Officers.
- These responsibilities encompass any training/learning to be undertaken (e.g. Active Bystander [3] and Report & Support training [4]), as well as expectations of the Welfare Officers (e.g. not acting as a therapist, ensuring safety at events, particularly non-sober events).

## The Society Resolves:

To amend Section 4.3 of the Constitution to add the following subsection:

### 4.3.5 Welfare Officer

- a. The Welfare Officer should work confidentially with both society members and exec to prioritise their wellbeing and safety, be available as the first point of contact, and where appropriate, signpost to external services such as Wellbeing Services.
- b. The Welfare Officer is not a therapist and should not be expected to act as such.

- c. The Welfare Officer should, as appropriate, inform event organiser(s), the President, or sources of authority within the university/SU, where issues require greater intervention (for example, where members' safety is at direct risk), or where there are issues such as a conflict of interest.
- d. The Welfare Officer should engage with learning materials such as those provided by (but not strictly limited to) the Active Bystander course and Report & Support.
- e. For non-sober events, the Welfare Officer is expected to act as “sober exec” if in attendance, and if they are not available, should reasonably ensure that there are “sober exec” at the event that they can liaise with where needed.

## References

- [1] .mat.k, “2024 AGM Results,” 2024, accessed: 2025-02-18. [Online]. Available: <https://discord.com/channels/189453139584221185/378148494168555526/1214376044858179674>
- [2] Warwick Students' Union, “Combined Byelaws - January 2025,” 2025, accessed: 2025-02-18. [Online]. Available: <https://www.warwicksu.com/pageassets/your-union/how-the-su-works/governingdocuments/CombinedByelawsJan25PostBoard-FINAL-upload.pdf>
- [3] University of Warwick, “Active Bystander Intervention Course,” 2025, accessed: 2025-02-18. [Online]. Available: <https://warwick.ac.uk/services/dean-of-students-office/community-values-education/abicourse/>
- [4] —, “Report and Support,” 2025, accessed: 2025-02-18. [Online]. Available: <https://reportandsupport.warwick.ac.uk/campaigns/report-and-support-ready>