

## What Do I Do If Something Happens During an Election That I'm Not Happy About?

The below explains how issues or complaints relating to people running in an election, or the election process, are handled. It clarifies the four stages of what you can do if you've seen something that I think isn't **Fair, Safe, Legal** or **Positive** - which is what the election rules are all about.

### Deal with the Issue Informally

If something happens that you're not happy about, try bringing the issue up with the candidate, or a member of their campaign team to see if it can be resolved by a simple chat.

This is normally the best way to nip something in the bud, as long as you feel comfortable to have that discussion and don't think it's going to make a situation worse. You'd also be surprised how often people have done something unintentionally.

Don't think this will work? Then...

### Get Advice on What to Do

During an election, the Student Voice Team act as "Election Officials" and can usually resolve issues quickly. As impartial staff, they can give sensible advice and interpret election rules to solve most initial problems.

They can also make immediate decisions on behaviour that needs to stop or change, if they feel its really clear that the election rules explicitly support that decision.

If you don't think what the Voice Team have suggested is the best thing to happen next, or if they weren't able to help you with the query you've raised as it's a more complicated issue, then you can...

### Talk to the Deputy Returning Officer

The Deputy Returning Officer (or DRO) is the staff member who has responsibility for running the elections. They have experience and knowledge of Students' Union elections and make sure they run in accordance with the election rules, relevant Union and University policies and the Education Act.

They'll make a decision on what needs to change because of what you've raised.

If you're still not happy with the response from the DRO to your issue...

### Talk to the Returning Officer

This is a person who has the final say on any decision relating to an issue with an election.

They're external to the Union, to make sure they're impartial and the Returning Officer will be someone with extensive experience and knowledge relating to Students' Union elections.

What they say, goes – their decision is final.

### Remember...

Due to elections taking place over a short period of time, everyone you contact in relation to an issue will get back to you as soon as possible. Please remember however, that elections are a busy and exciting period with lots of activity and staff time committed to delivering one of the Union's biggest projects of the year, so you may have to wait on a decision for a short while.