

INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigator Name	Roger Weston	Report Date	12/02/2021
Investigation Start Date	11/02/2021	Investigation End Date	12/02/2021
Candidate subject to investigation	Zoe Boyer		

Evidence Review

List any potential evidence gathered during evidence review. Note the type of evidence and describe the surrounding circumstances of the occurrence.

Time	Type of Evidence	Description
11/02/2021 00:22	Email	Original Complaint
11/02/2021 13:38	Screenshots	Appendix 1- Screenshots received from original complainant
11/02/2021 15:40	Screenshots	Appendix 2- Additional Screenshots collated by DRO
11/02/2021 21:17	Screenshots	Appendix 3- More screenshots sent by Complainant
11/02/2021 21:21	Screenshots	Appendix 4- More screenshots sent by Complainant
11/02/2021 23:35	Email	Apology and acknowledgement email from Zoe

Summary & Recommendations

Please summarize your thoughts on this investigation and note your suggestions for follow-up or resolution of this case.

Evidence was sent through regarding the complaint made in the Original Complaint. That evidence has been collated in Appendix 1.

A complaint was received regarding campaigning via university-owned social media pages.

The following timeline is relevant to the complaint:

Date and Time	Action by	Action
08/02/2021 18:00	DRO	DRO informed candidates present at the candidate briefing that it would be expected that candidates would check the Rulings Page daily during the process to ensure that they were up-to-date with any new rulings and interpretations.
09/02/2021 18:00	DRO	DRO informed candidates present at the candidate briefing that it would be expected that candidates would check the Rulings Page daily during the process to ensure that they were up-to-date with any new rulings and interpretations.
10/02/2021 13:02	DRO	DRO announced on Rulings Page that posting on University-owned social media platforms would not be permitted. DRO emailed all candidates to inform them that the Rulings Page was live and contained announcements regarding the election.

11/02/2021 15:20	DRO	DRO contacted Zoe to explain that a complaint had been received, and request that posts in breach of the rules be taken down.
11/02/2021 23:35	ZB	An email with an explanation as to why the rules were breached was sent by Zoe to the DRO.

I have also spoken with Zoe, who has explained that emails with announcements were going into her junk email, which has now been corrected. The DRO was also made aware of a specific personal circumstance that needed to be taken into consideration too, which won't be included in this report due to it being published.

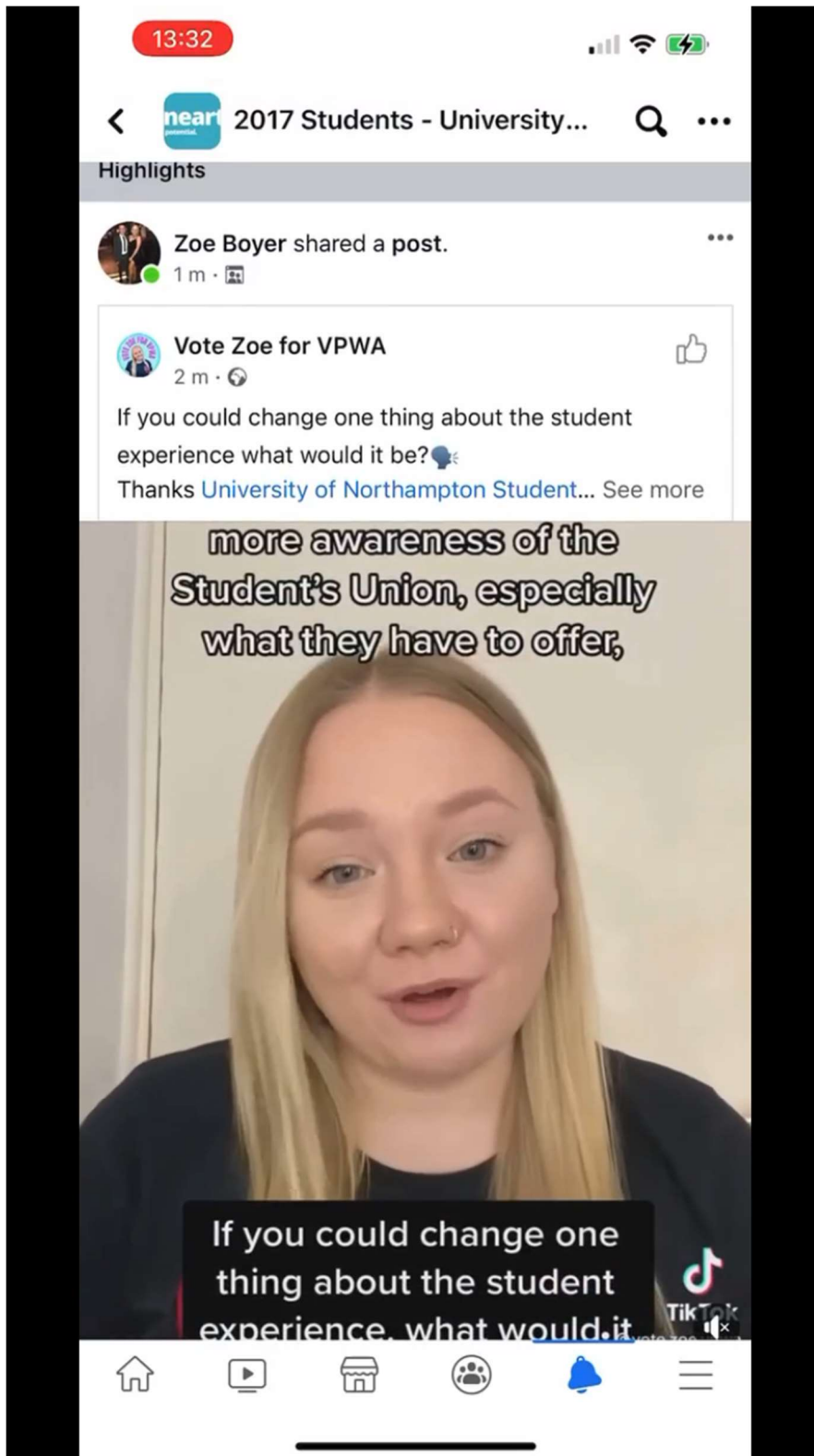
Taking the timeline into consideration and the requests that were made by the DRO, it is a reasonable assumption to make that Zoe will not have seen the post by the DRO at this point, and on the balance of probabilities it can be assumed that Zoe was unaware of the new ruling. The posts were taken down within 36 hours of the email sent by the DRO announcing the new ruling.

Decision

It has been decided that no immediate action should be taken against the candidate at this point, as the timescales regarding this issue show no unreasonable action was taken by the candidate, and the effect of those actions will be negligible by the time students can vote between 22nd-24th February.

The candidate involved will be reminded that they should regularly check emails from the DRO and the Rulings page on the SU website to ensure they are up-to-date and compliant with any rule alterations.

APPENDIX 1





Zoe Boyer shared a post.

18h · 🌐



and I'm willing to work
extremely hard in order to
ensure that every single
voice is heard,

What makes you the
candidate that people
should vote for?



TikTok

@vote.zoe.vjms





2018 Students - University of Northampton

0:07 / 0:30

Vote Zoe for VPWA

19 h · 🌐

Why should you vote for me? 🙌

Thanks [University of Northampton Students' Union](#) for this question!

This video refers to my manifesto points and what I believe... [See more](#)



2 comments

👍 Like

💬 Comment



Catriona Doyle

I really like that you are passionate about ensuring every voice is heard.

Like · Reply · 16 h



Zoe Boyer Author

Catriona Doyle Thank you! I think it's really important! 😊

Like · Reply · 16 h

Write a comment...





Zoe Boyer shared a post.

17 h · 🌐



MANIFESTO POINT 1:

Offer mental health awareness training to students so they can recognise and look after their own mental health as well as their peers.

- I believe it's absolutely vital for students at the University of Northampton to have the opportunity to learn more about mental health, how to support someone who is struggling with their mental health, and spot signs of struggling within themselves.

- I attended a mental health awareness training course in 2019 and felt completely inspired to let others know what I learnt!

- I would love to offer a mental health awareness session every other week for students to come along and educate themselves on something that anyone can suffer with, I believe this sort of education is vital for protecting yourself and others, and could potentially save lives.



Get the best out of your



Zoe Boyer shared a post.

Yesterday at 10:18 · 🌐



Go check out my page and find out why you should vote me as your next VPWA! 📢👍

VOTE ZOE FOR VPWA

- Offer fortnightly mental health awareness training to students so they can recognise and look after their own mental health as well as their peers.
- Re-build the community environment on campus following the pandemic to allow students to feel safe and at home.
- Advertise all sports and societies on a regular basis to encourage more student participation; including inside footage of clubs training.
- Ensure the correct facilities are available and suitable for sports and societies.
- Fighting for sports and societies to remain free so they remain accessible for all students.
- Provide physical and online events that encourage students of all backgrounds to build relationships and get the best out of their university experience.
- Working closely to improve the current available services for students to best sustain their physical and mental welfare.
- Encourage voices to be heard and represented from students of all communities including mature, LGBTQ+, BME and International students.
- Making students aware of the facilities available to them, what the SU can offer them, and how to contact the correct officers with any issues.

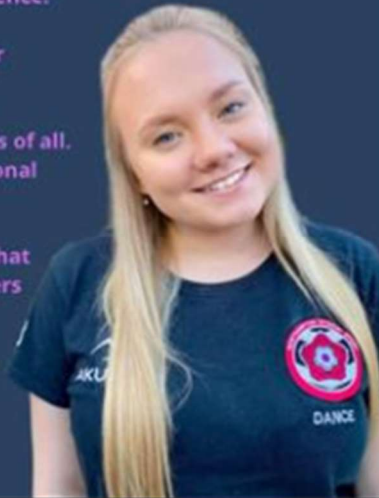




2019 New Students - University of Northampton

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"Get the best out of your University experience!"



Vote Zoe for VPWA

9 February at 23:25 · 🌐

•MY MANIFESTO PLEDGES•

Here are my points I wish to take forward into the role of VPWA, I want to bring the community vibe back to campus, as well as ensuring a... [See more](#)





2019 New Students - University of Northampton

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Get the best out of your University experience!



Vote Zoe for VPWA

9 February at 23:25 · 🌐

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APPENDIX 2

Grace Craddock shared a post.
Yesterday at 11:10 · 🌐

Go check out Zoe's page and find out why you should vote her as our next VPWA!

VOTE ZOE FOR VPWA

Vote Zoe for VPWA
9 February at 22:47 · 🌐

•GET THE BEST OUT OF YOUR UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE•

I'm Zoe Boyer and I'm running to be your Vice President of Welfare and Activities at the University of North... [See more](#)

👍 2



2019 New Students - University of Northampton



Niamh Hutton shared a post.

Yesterday at 10:20 · 🌐



Check out Zoe's page and find out why you should vote her as your next VPWA!!

VOTE ZOE FOR VPWA

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"Get the best out of your University experience!"



Vote Zoe for VPWA

Business service

[Learn More](#)

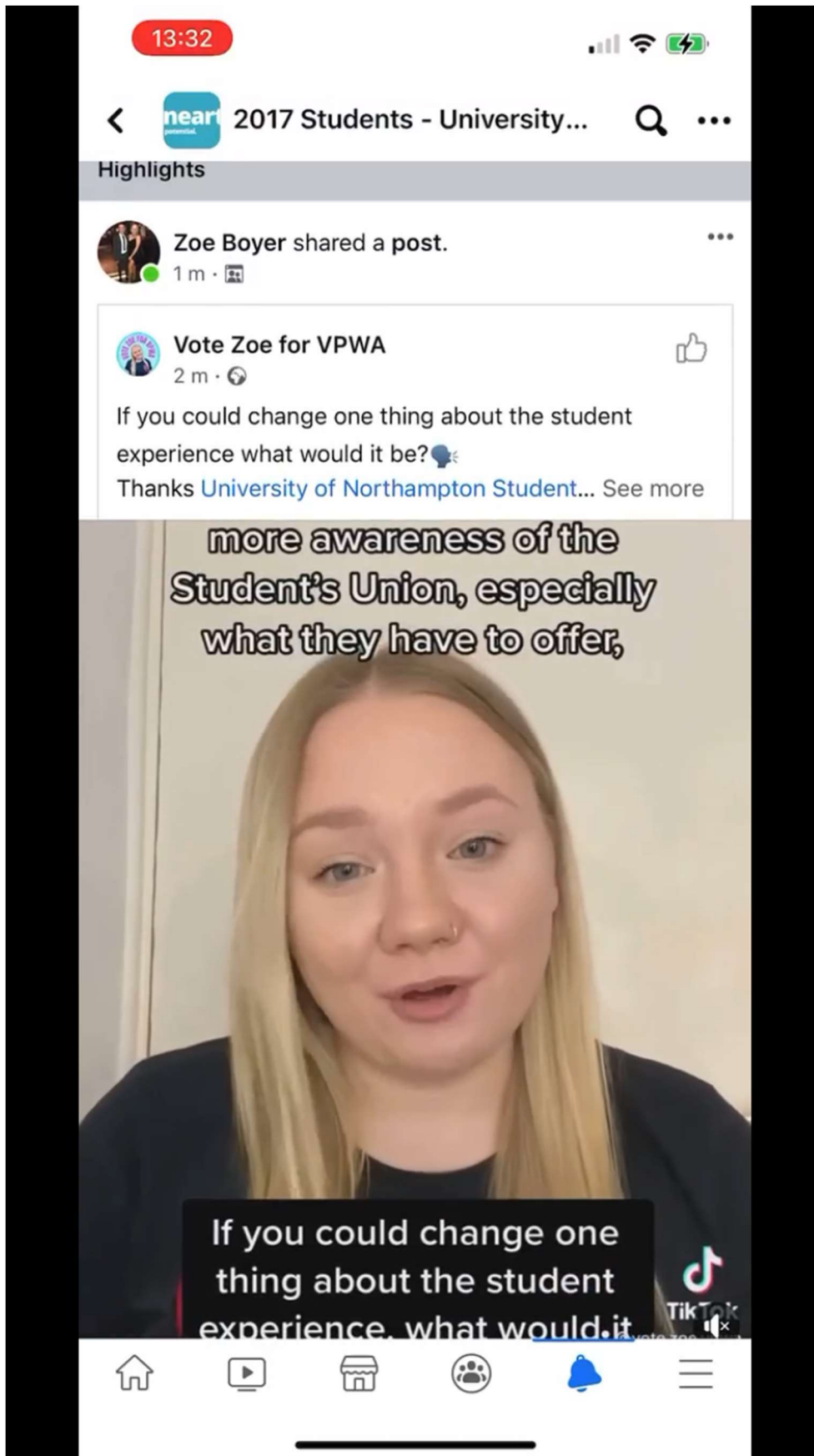
Vote Zoe for VPWA

9 February at 23:25 · 🌐

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APPENDIX 3



APPENDIX 4

The screenshot shows a mobile application interface. At the top, there is a status bar with signal strength, Wi-Fi, time (20:39), and battery (38%). Below this is a navigation bar with a back arrow, the 'eWARD' logo, the text '2018 Students - Univ...', a search icon, and a menu icon. A grey bar below the navigation bar reads 'From notifications'. The main content area shows a notification from 'Zoe Boyer' who shared a post 4 minutes ago. The post is titled 'Vote Zoe for VPWA' and was shared 5 minutes ago. The post content includes a manifesto point: '•MANIFESTO POINT 2: BRINGING THE COMMUNITY VIBE BACK TO CAMPUS.' followed by '... See more'. Below the notification is a large blue banner for 'MANIFESTO POINT 2: Re-build the community environment on campus following the pandemic to allow students to feel safe and at home.' The banner contains a list of five bullet points and an illustration of a woman speaking into a microphone. At the bottom of the app is a navigation bar with icons for Home, Video (with a red '6' notification), Store, Flag, Notifications (with a red '2' notification), and a menu icon.

20:39 38%

eWARD 2018 Students - Univ...

From notifications

Zoe Boyer shared a post. 4 m

Vote Zoe for VPWA 5 m

•MANIFESTO POINT 2: BRINGING THE COMMUNITY VIBE BACK TO CAMPUS.
... See more

MANIFESTO POINT 2:
Re-build the community environment on campus following the pandemic to allow students to feel safe and at home.

- I want to bring the buzz back to campus by re-building the community spirit with organising plenty of activities for students to attend all throughout the year so they can socialise.
- It's imperative that campus has a community feel so students feel at home on campus, socialising with other students will aid this.
- Making use of the Platform and Engine Shed as these are safe places for students and need to be used to their full advantage.
- Create an events management committee where representatives of many groups including Sports, Societies, BME, Mature, LGBTQ+ students which can help create online and physical events catered for all in order to create one big community.
- By re-building this community students will have many people to contact, and know who exactly they can contact with any issues, which allows students

Home Video (6) Store Flag Notifications (2) Menu