

Committee	NWH Board of Management		
Date paper prepared	28 th May 2026	Date of committee meeting	Enter a date.
Subject	HISA's 2026 referendums		
Author	Simon Varwell, Director of Student Engagement and Representation, and Deputy Returning Officer, HISA		
Action requested	I. For noting		
Purpose of the paper	This paper reports on our 2026 referendums. It helps the board fulfil its responsibility under law to assure that its students' association is operating in a democratic manner.		
Summary of the paper	The paper gives a detailed explanation of the background, operation and results of two referendums held in spring 2026.		
Consultation	Both referendums were on the back of substantial consultation of our membership and indeed our stakeholders. For the referendum on our new Articles of Association, boards and AP senior management teams were regularly appraised of this review. For the referendum on our membership of NUS, extensive engagement has taken place with boards and AP senior management teams about our budget and capacity (a significant influence on the referendum taking place), and it followed a motion at an All-Student Meeting.		
Resource implications	N		
Risk implications	None.		

Link with strategy	
<u>Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion</u>	Ensuring our documents can be read and understood by everyone, including people with disabilities or impairments, is a legal requirement under the Equality Act 2010.
Island Community Impact	None specifically, except insofar as our revised Articles, once approved, will improve our governance and the NUS referendum will contribute to some relief of financial pressure for the new academic year; and both of these will indirectly contribute to our better serving of all our members.
Paper status	☐ Open – The paper may be circulated to non-members of the committee and published online without restriction. ☒ Restricted – The paper must not be circulated to non-members or published online until after the committee meeting. ☐ Confidential - The paper must not be circulated beyond the committee members and should not be published online. Some information is considered commercially sensitive. [Please note papers may still be subject to Freedom of Information requests – see below].
<u>Freedom of information</u>	Choose an item. FOISA exemptions Scottish Information Commissioner (itspublicknowledge.info) If closed/ withheld, select date this will become 'open': Once discussed.

