Build more affordable student housing!

What we will do:
1. Mandate the Students’ Association to ask for an increased percentage of student housing to be built by the University rather than outsourced to private companies
2. Ask the University to ensure that newly built student housing is accessible for those with disabilities

Background to this:
1. There have been a number of Students’ Association achievements around student accommodation already, including securing a price freeze on the cheapest thousand beds and a real terms price cut on first-year accommodation for the next academic year
2. Edinburgh is a particularly expensive city for students, being Scotland’s capital city and, in 2016, was declared the UK’s most costly student city.
3. Prices of first-year university accommodation have risen every year while the quality of accommodation has remained the same
4. There is a visible rise in new accommodation blocks being built by private companies such as Unite Students and Collegiate AC, which is leading towards an increased reliance on these unaccountable companies when the University can afford to build and buy its own accommodation
5. The University can afford to build more accommodation, due to the fact that the University’s profit last year was greater than every single university in Scotland’s combined
6. The University completed its Review of Support for Disabled Students in summer 2017, which found that disabled students viewed the support received as inconsistent

Beliefs and motivating actions:
1. One of the main issues for university students continues to be the increasing rise of living costs and accommodation fees, particularly those whose families are on lower incomes and cannot afford to help them with money
2. We believe that private companies do not have students’ best interests at heart, but rather the profit they can make i. Reliance on private companies is unsustainable, more expensive and bad for students
3. The University has a responsibility to do what it can to ensure that new students are not struggling to afford to pay rent
4. The struggles of disabled students are often overlooked, and Edinburgh is already an extremely inaccessible city to live in i. Accessibility should not come at a price, and accommodation should also be economically accessible

Submitted with 20 Student Signatures.