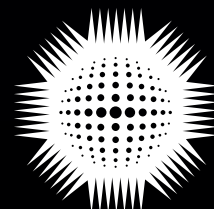


NEBOSH Ethical Practice Report

April – June 2023



nebosh

NEBOSH Ethical Practice Report

NEBOSH's Ethical Practice Report publishes information about our approach to ethical practice and the outcomes of our activities from April – June 2023.

These quarterly reports outline our proactive approach to detecting and investigating malpractice, and the outcomes of our activities.

Cheats do not have a place in the health and safety profession.

At a glance: April – June 2023

1,107 investigations concluded

2 fraudulent certificate websites taken down


994
learners identified as engaged in malpractice

1,444
penalties issued



~~**450**~~
BANS

23 LIFETIME BANS

636
cases of fraudulent activity on social media removed

NEBOSH Ethical Practice Report

Investigations

NEBOSH employs a team of Ethical Practice experts who review assessments, collect evidence and conduct thorough investigations into potential incidents of malpractice. Some investigations are more complex than others and may take many months of work whilst we use a range of tools and techniques to gather evidence. Where it has been found that malpractice has taken place, we apply appropriate penalties to any person or organisation involved.

During January – March 2023 we completed 1,107 investigations and opened 1,275 new investigations.

Penalties and sanctions

The penalties will depend on the severity of the offence and the strength of the evidence collected during the investigation process. Sanctions can range from results being voided to lifetime bans. The number of penalties is greater than the number of learners punished, as one learner can receive multiple penalties. For example, if a learner has two units voided and receives a ban, that equates to three penalties.

Our completed investigations resulted in 1,444 penalties being issued to 994 learners in this reporting period. They included:

- 23 lifetime bans
- 27 five-year bans
- 149 three-year bans
- 102 two-year bans
- 249 one-year bans

Don't buy answers

People who do not put in the effort to learn and to do their own work, do not deserve our qualifications. In March 2023, we purchased assessment answers from fraudulent online sellers – when we compared these to learners' submissions, we found that 22 learners' work matched the purchased answers. All of them had their work voided and received a ban.

Don't copy others

During the marking process, we found that a learner had submitted an assignment containing hidden characters (this is sometimes done to try and avoid being detected by plagiarism checkers). On closer inspection, we found that the assessment was almost identical to another learner's submission. The assessment was voided and the learner received a lifetime ban.

Write your own assessments

For some of our qualifications, a professional discussion or closing interview is part of the assessment process; learners are asked about their work and are expected to demonstrate that they have understood what they have written in their answers and that they did the work themselves. In one case, our monitoring activities identified irregularities in 15 learners' closing interviews. On further investigation, NEBOSH was not satisfied that their assessments were entirely their own work and their marks were voided.

NEBOSH Ethical Practice Report

We take reports seriously

An informant advised us that a learner's answer paper was visible in a video that was being used to provide assistance to people taking NEBOSH assessments. We were able to identify the learner and further investigation found that they had not authored their own assessments either – their results were voided.

Upholding high standards in our Learning Partners

Our network of accredited Learning Partners helps us to protect the integrity of NEBOSH assessments and can help identify cheating, for example in post-assessment professional discussions and closing interviews. In this reporting period, Learning Partners reported 197 suspected cases of malpractice to NEBOSH for further investigation.

Our Learning Partners are also expected to uphold the high standards and rigour on which NEBOSH prides itself. Where Learning Partners do not conduct themselves in this way, or in a way that contravenes their Learning Partner agreement, NEBOSH will impose sanctions or terminate their agreement. During April – June 2023 we removed accreditation from four organisations:

- Two in India – working with unapproved organisations to provide an assessment-only service
- In Nigeria – refusing an unannounced visit
- In Kuwait – working with unapproved organisations to provide an assessment-only service

'Our Learning Partners are also expected to uphold the high standards and rigour on which NEBOSH prides itself.'

NEBOSH Ethical Practice Report

Removing fraudulent online content

Our in-house experts monitor websites, blogs and social media daily to identify any content that could jeopardise NEBOSH's reputation or the integrity of our qualifications. This includes content that:

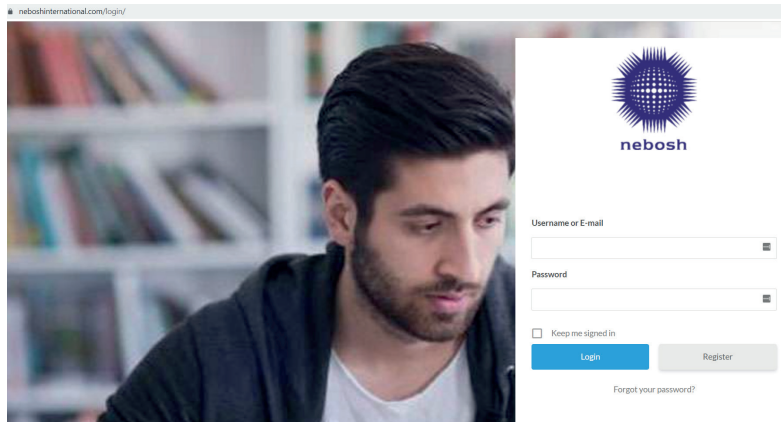
- Falsely promotes an association with NEBOSH
- Sells fake NEBOSH certificates
- Sells training from an unaccredited organisation
- Helps learners to answer a live assessment
- Sells or distributes pre-written answers

We work with specialist solicitors and social media platforms to contact content owners/publishers and have this type of content removed.

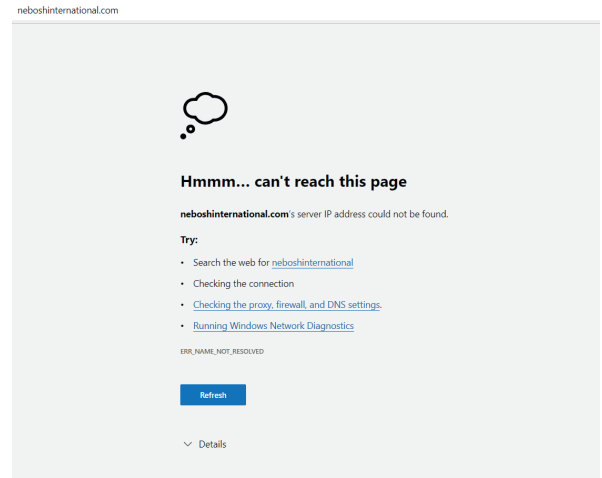
In the quarter we:

- Removed 636 social media posts and pages.
- Removed content from and/or had a site suspended on 38 websites and blogs
- Closed down 2 websites selling fake certificates

In one example this quarter, fraudsters had set up a fake online assessment platform. This was found and removed.



Before



After

NEBOSH Ethical Practice Report

You can help

Malpractice concerns

If you have any evidence about possible malpractice, please report it to us at postassessment@nebosh.org.uk.

Together we can stamp out malpractice and protect the integrity of the health and safety profession.

We review every piece of information and intelligence that is sent to us however, for privacy reasons, we cannot provide an update on individual cases or investigations to you.

Fraudulent online content

NEBOSH's Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) experts and lawyers find and remove fraudulent activity such as fake certificates, assessment writing services, guarantees of 100% pass rates or claiming to have access to NEBOSH's systems to change grades. Although it only takes minutes to post something online it can take days or weeks for NEBOSH to have it removed by the relevant platform. If you see a fraudulent social media post or website you can help by:

- Reporting it to us at ipr@nebosh.org.uk; and
- Reporting posts to the relevant social media platform.

Private chat groups

It only takes a moment for someone to set up a private chat or group. Unfortunately, these are hard to detect and report; they are usually accessed by personal phone numbers/accounts and can be invite-only groups. You can help by reporting these groups using in-platform reporting features. You can also share member details with NEBOSH (we require details such as names, phone numbers and images of conversations to investigate properly).

Our free verification service

You can verify any NEBOSH qualification for free and we recommend that employers use our verification services in the recruitment of potential health and safety employees. NEBOSH has two free services:

- If you have a **certificate**, you can use our online platform to check the authenticity of any NEBOSH qualification: <https://www.nebosh.org.uk/online-verifications>.
- To validate the information on a **results document** please contact NEBOSH via our Verification Request Form <https://www.nebosh.org.uk/policies-and-procedures/verifications/>.

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NEBOSH, the National Examination Board in Occupational Safety and Health,
is a world leading provider of health, safety, environmental and wellbeing qualifications.

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