

nebosh

# NEBOSH Ethical Practice Report

January – March 2023

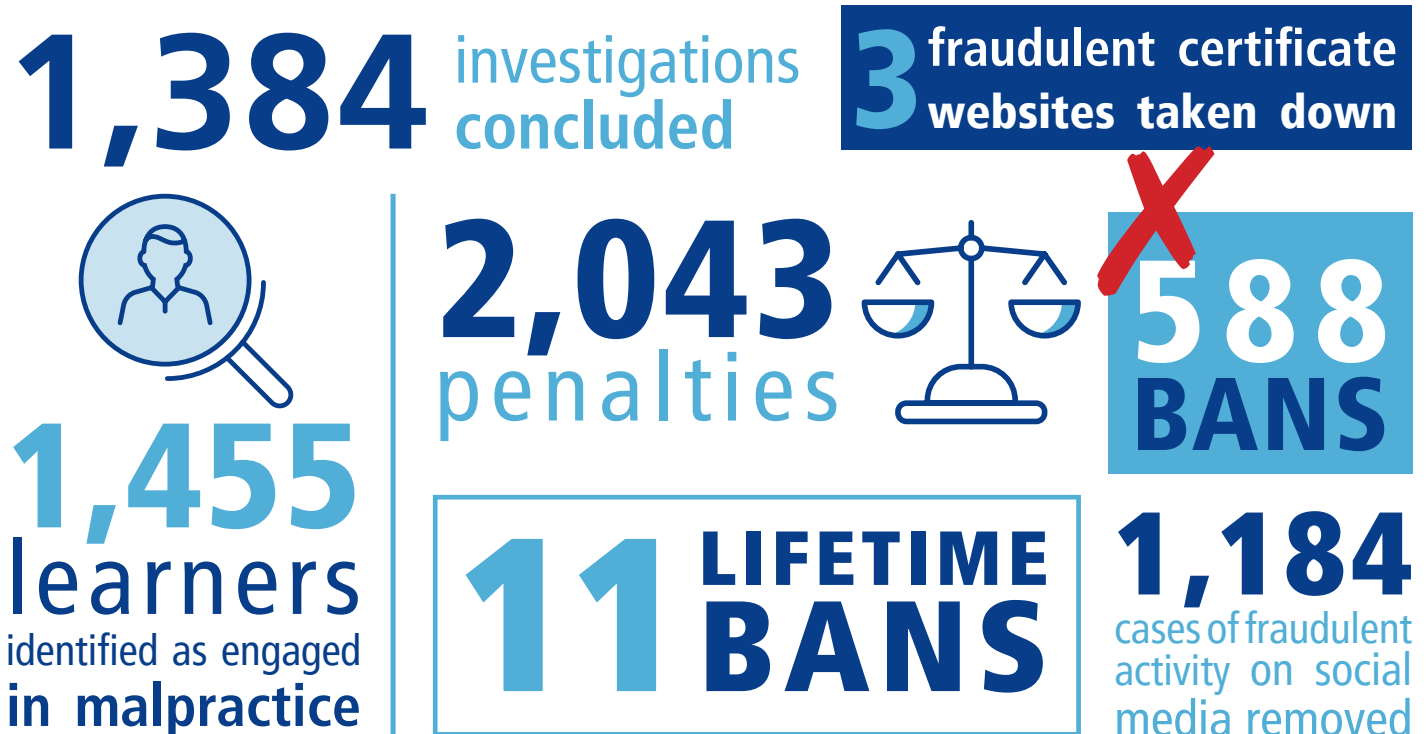
# NEBOSH Ethical Practice Report

NEBOSH's Ethical Practice Report publishes information about our approach to ethical practice and the outcomes of our activities from January – March 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: January – March 2023



# NEBOSH Ethical Practice Report

## Investigations

NEBOSH employs a team of Ethical Practice experts who review assessments, collect evidence and conduct thorough investigations into potential incidences 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 1,384 investigations and opened 1,475 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 2,043 penalties being issued to 1,455 learners in this reporting period. They included:

- 11 lifetime bans
- 16 five-year bans
- 184 three-year bans
- 164 two-year bans
- 213 one-year bans

Fraudsters and cheats often use social media to communicate and share – it is free and easy for them to use but NEBOSH monitors social media and messaging groups to gather evidence. In one case, we found an organisation offering a cheating service; it used photographs to promote its services and we were able to identify NEBOSH learners from details in the photos. All learners' results were voided and they received a lifetime ban.

### **Don't buy assessment answers!**

Some undeserving learners buy assessment answers from fraudulent organisations or individuals. NEBOSH also buys answers from these organisations to compare with those submitted by learners.

Two investigations found that 41 learners had purchased their IG1 assessment answers. All learners had their results voided and received lengthy bans.

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The expertise of our Learning Partners and Examiners also helps us to catch people engaged in malpractice. Many assessments are followed by a closing interview where learners are asked about their work; reports from Learning Partners as well as NEBOSH monitoring has resulted in several cases of malpractice being identified following an unsatisfactory closing interview.

## You can help

Anyone can report malpractice concerns to NEBOSH. In one case, a whistle blower provided us with information that a group of learners had used a third-party to write their IG1 assessments. This led to us investigating their IG1 and IG2 units, where evidence was found of highly similar and identical content. These learners' units were voided and they received lifetime bans.

## Upholding high standards in our Learning Partners

Our network of accredited Learning Partners are 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 January – March 2023 we removed accreditation from four organisations:

- In India – working with banned organisations
- In Saudi Arabia – working with banned and unapproved organisations
- In India – quality concerns that were not rectified
- In Qatar – working with banned organisations

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## 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:

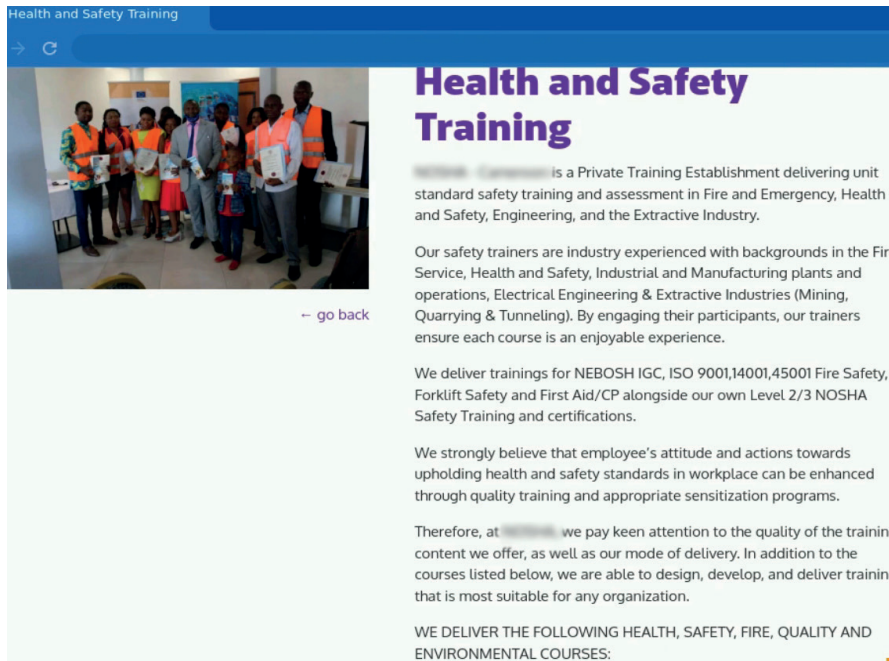
- Falsely promotes an association with NEBOSH
- Sells fake NEBOSH certificates
- Sells training from an unaccredited organisation
- Helps learners to answer a live assessment
- Sells or distributes pre-written answers

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 1,185 social media posts and pages.
- Removed content from and/or had a site suspended on 54 websites and blogs
- Closed down 3 websites selling fake certificates

In one example this quarter, an unaccredited organisation was claiming to offer the NEBOSH International General Certificate in Occupational Health and Safety. We found the website content and worked to have it removed so that potential learners were not misled into studying with an unaccredited Learning Partner.



The screenshot shows a website page for 'Health and Safety Training'. The page features a blue header with the title 'Health and Safety Training' and a navigation bar with a back arrow and a refresh icon. Below the header is a photograph of a group of people, including men and women in high-visibility orange vests, standing in a room. To the right of the photo is a large purple heading 'Health and Safety Training'. Below this heading is a paragraph of text: 'is a Private Training Establishment delivering unit standard safety training and assessment in Fire and Emergency, Health and Safety, Engineering, and the Extractive Industry.' This is followed by three paragraphs of text describing the training services, including NEBOSH IGC, ISO 9001, 14001, 45001 Fire Safety, Forklift Safety and First Aid/CP, and Level 2/3 NOSHA Safety Training. The page ends with a section titled 'WE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING HEALTH, SAFETY, FIRE, QUALITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL COURSES:'.

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## Help us to eliminate cheats

### Malpractice concerns

If you have any evidence about possible malpractice, please report it to us at [postassessment@nebosh.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:ipr@nebosh.org.uk); and
- Reporting posts to the relevant social media platform.

### 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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