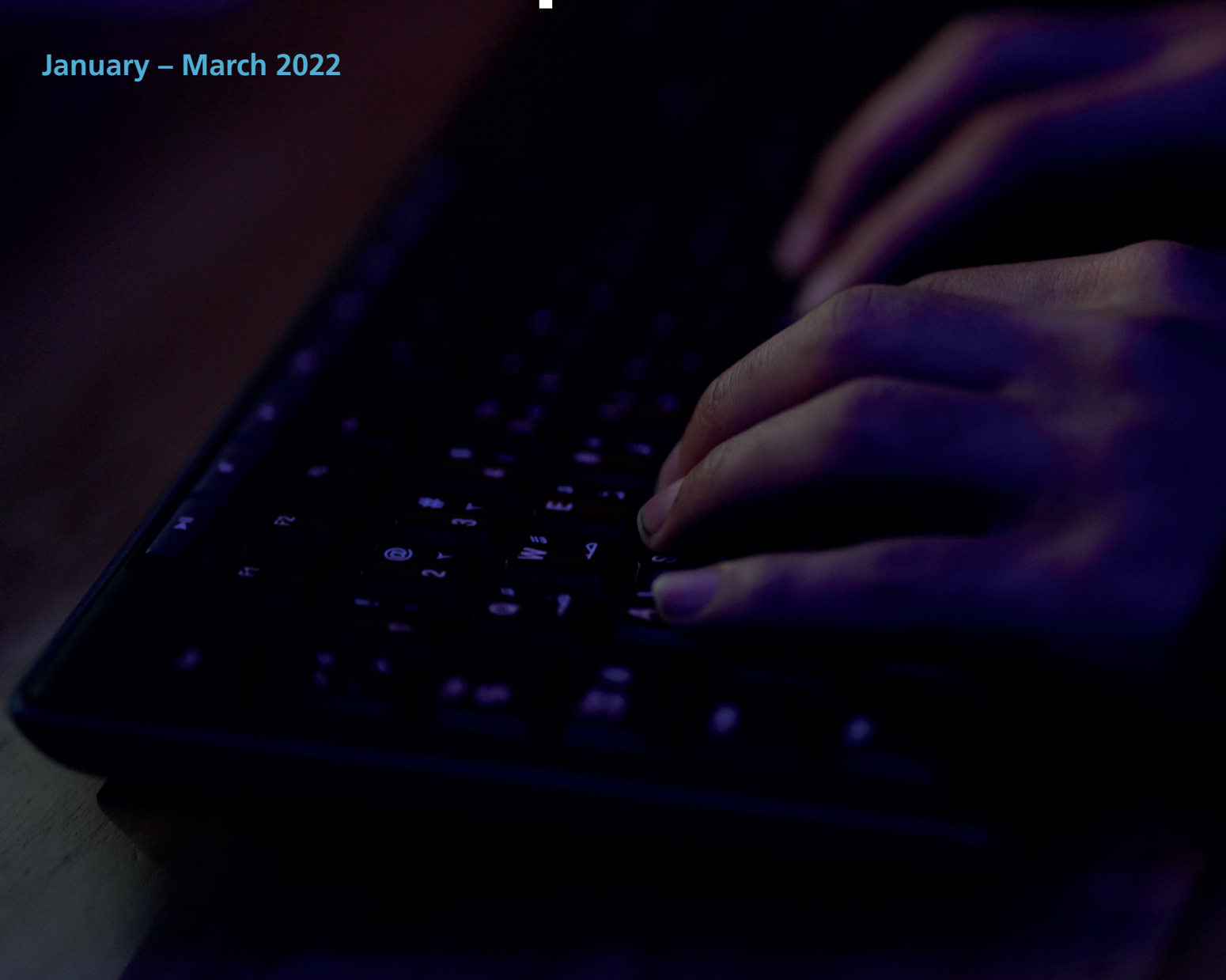
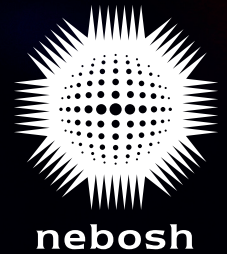


NEBOSH Ethical Practice Report

January – March 2022



NEBOSH Ethical Practice Report

Welcome to NEBOSH's Ethical Practice Report which publishes information about our approach to ethical practice and the outcomes of our activities in January-March 2022.

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 2022

1,322
investigations concluded



1,325
learners
identified as engaged
in malpractice

2,290
penalties 

3 LIFETIME
BANS

9 fraudulent certificate
websites shut down

~~**968**~~
BANS

206
cases of fraudulent
activity on social
media resolved

NEBOSH Ethical Practice Report

Investigations

Our Ethical Practice experts concluded 1,322 investigations in the quarter and opened a further 1,972 investigations. Some investigations are more complex than others and some may run to many months of work whilst we use a range of tools and techniques to gather evidence.

Upon completion of an investigation we will review all the evidence to determine whether malpractice has taken place and, where it has, what the appropriate penalties are for any person or organisation involved.

Penalties and sanctions

The penalties applied for malpractice activity will depend on the severity of the offence and 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.

From the concluded investigations, 2,290 penalties were issued to 1,325 learners in this reporting period. They included:

- 3 lifetime bans
- 11 five-year bans
- 339 three-year bans
- 290 two-year bans
- 324 one-year bans

It's not just people who cheat that are penalised. Learners who help others in their assessments will be penalised too. In one example, a learner was found to be offering completed assessments in exchange for money on WhatsApp groups. Upon completion of our investigation, all of the learner's units for all of their qualifications were voided and they received a permanent ban.

In another case we received intelligence that a learner had not written their assessments themselves. Evidence gathered during the investigation corroborated this and the learner had their units voided and received a permanent ban.

Working with our Learning Partners and Examiners

Our Learning Partners and trained Examiners also contribute to maintaining the integrity of NEBOSH's qualifications and rooting out would-be cheats. Learning Partners reported 193 potential malpractice incidents to NEBOSH in the quarter and, in one case, an Examiner notified us of unusual phrasing in learners' answers. Upon further investigation 20 learners were found to have used the same or similar content. All learners involved in this case had their results voided and received bans of two or three years, depending on the extent of the copying.

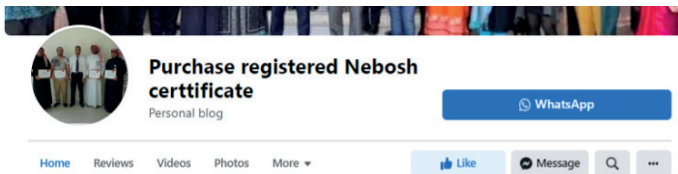
NEBOSH Ethical Practice Report

Removing fraudulent online content

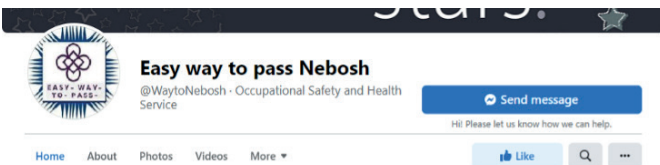
NEBOSH monitors websites, blogs and social media content daily to identify any content that could jeopardise NEBOSH's reputation or the integrity of our qualifications, for example content (such as those illustrated below) that:

- 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

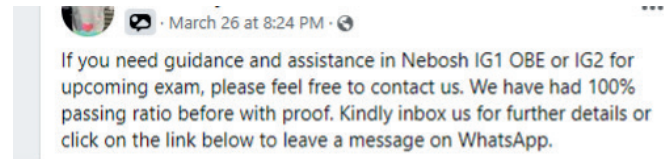
A fraudulent Facebook group (reported and removed)



A fraudulent Facebook group (reported and removed)



A social media post advertising fraudulent services (reported and removed)



Our work resulted in 27 websites being closed down or having content removed and 206 social media posts or groups removed. We also had 9 fraudulent certificate websites taken down. The intelligence from our IPR work also informs malpractice investigations; we are able to find learners who have engaged with these channels and potentially cheated in their assessments.

NEBOSH Ethical Practice Report

Reporting

Malpractice concerns

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.

If you have any evidence about possible malpractice, please report it to NEBOSH's dedicated team of experts at postassessment@nebosh.org.uk.

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

Fraudulent online content

We have dedicated Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) experts and lawyers who 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.

Our free verification service

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

- 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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