

NEBOSH Ethical Practice Report

January – March 2024



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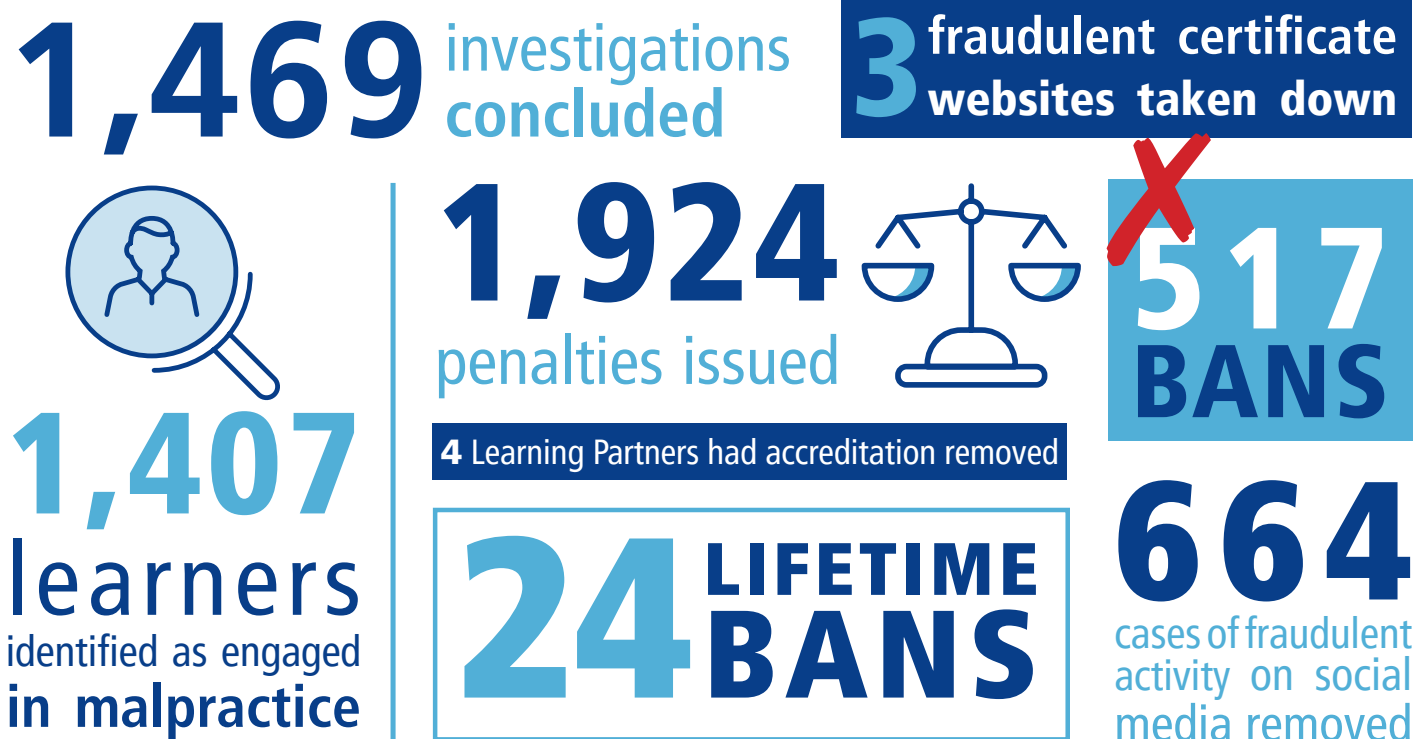
NEBOSH Ethical Practice Report

NEBOSH's Ethical Practice Report publishes information about our approach to ethical practice and the outcomes of our activities from January – March 2024.

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 2024



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 2024 we completed 1,469 investigations.

Penalties and sanctions

Penalties depend on the severity of the offence and the strength of the evidence collected during the investigation process; these 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 1,924 penalties being issued to 1,407 learners in this reporting period. They included:

- 24 lifetime bans
- 10 five-year bans
- 160 three-year bans
- 131 two-year bans
- 192 one-year bans

In addition, four Learning Partners had their accreditation removed for reasons including failure to make improvements following a NEBOSH audit and complicity in malpractice.

Working together

NEBOSH's network of accredited Learning Partners and Examiners helps protect the integrity of NEBOSH assessments and can identify cheating, for example, in post-assessment professional discussions, closing interviews and the marking process.

In one example, a Learning Partner reported suspicions about learners' identification documents and the identity of the people attending the closing interviews. Our investigations found that multiple learners had used another person (a 'proxy') to sit the closing interview on their behalf. All of the learners involved had their IG1 units voided and were permanently banned from NEBOSH assessments.

In another example, an Examiner reported that they suspected AI had been used to write some of the answers. When this was checked using NEBOSH's AI-writing detection tools, this was found to be the case and the unit was declared void. As per NEBOSH's Malpractice Policy it is not permitted to use AI because this means that the assessment is not wholly the learner's own work.

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The importance of submitting your own work

NEBOSH assessments are designed to test the knowledge and skills you have learnt during your qualification studies. The work you submit should be entirely your own.

In a mystery shopping investigation, one learner's assessment was found to be largely identical to an assessment that had been offered for sale online. Upon marking, the assessment was found to be of poor quality and only scored four marks. Following an investigation, the learner who had used the assessment was banned from NEBOSH assessments.

In another case, NEBOSH's social media monitoring on assessment day found a post which contained a screenshot of a learner's successful assessment submission which was being used to advertise cheating services. NEBOSH identified the learner and, following an investigation, their unit result was declared void and they were permanently banned from sitting NEBOSH assessments.

Remember, all answers must be wholly each learner's own work. NEBOSH will investigate any evidence of copying, collusion, or plagiarism. If malpractice is confirmed, severe sanctions will be applied.

تذكر ان كل الاجابات يجب ان تكون من المجهود الشخصي و الفردي لكل طالب. نيبوش سوف تحقق عند وجود اي دليل علي النسخ أو التواطؤ أو الانتحال. وإذا ثبت وجود الغش او عدم الالتزام بقوانين نيبوش سوف نطبق عقوبات شديدة و صارمة.

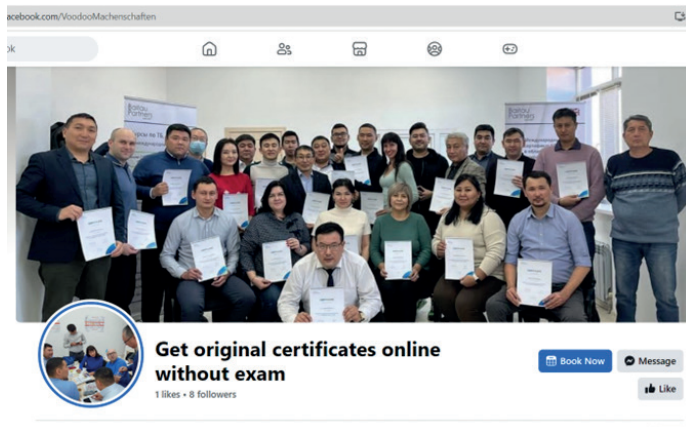
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Removing fraudulent online content

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 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.

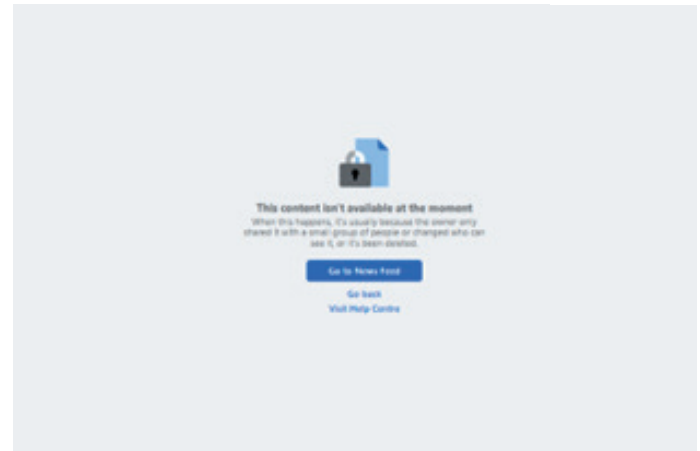


Before

In the quarter we:

- Removed 664 social media posts and pages
- Removed content from and/or had a site suspended on 16 websites and blogs
- Had three fraudulent certificate websites taken down

Here is an example of a Facebook group that NEBOSH discovered and removed.



After

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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 claims 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, such as on WhatsApp. 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 using the details above (we require details such as names, phone numbers and images of conversations to investigate thoroughly).

Verification service

Remember, NEBOSH also has a free online verifications service for you and employers of health and safety professionals to verify the authenticity of a qualification; we recommend that learners also encourage your employer or future employer to use this service to raise awareness.

For more information, visit: <https://www.nebosh.org.uk/policies-and-procedures/verifications/>.

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NEBOSH, the National Examination Board in Occupational Safety and Health,
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