

# NEBOSH Ethical Practice Report

July – September 2023



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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 July-September 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: July – September 2023

**1,651** investigations concluded

**5** fraudulent certificate websites taken down



**1,611** learners identified as engaged in malpractice

**2,157** penalties issued



~~**546**~~ BANS

**4** LIFETIME BANS

**456** cases of fraudulent activity on social media removed

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## 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 July – September 2023 we completed 1,651 investigations and opened 2,079 new 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 2,157 penalties being issued to 1,611 learners in this reporting period. They included:

- 4 lifetime bans
- 11 five-year bans
- 177 three-year bans
- 149 two-year bans
- 205 one-year bans

## Working together

Our network of accredited Learning Partners and Examiners helps us to protect the integrity of NEBOSH assessments and can help identify cheating.

For example, in post-assessment professional discussions and closing interviews, Learning Partners question learners about their work. In one case, the learner was asking for – and receiving – answers from another person, and ignoring the interviewer’s instructions not to do this. This was deliberate malpractice by the learner: their result was declared void and they were given a three-year ban.

In another closing interview case, a learner was found to be moving their mouth whilst another person off-camera was actually answering the questions. The learner’s result was declared void, and they received a three-year ban.

In another case, an Examiner reported that a learner’s work contained prompts that indicated that they may have used AI to generate answers. Human analysis, combined with AI-writing detection software, confirmed that the learner’s assessment had almost wholly been generated by AI. Their result was voided and they received a ban.

# NEBOSH Ethical Practice Report

**NEBOSH has recently updated its Malpractice Policy to add clarification about the use of AI in assessment answers.**

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 July-September 2023, we removed accreditation from nine organisations for reasons such as working with unapproved organisations, sharing login details or failing to comply with NEBOSH's instructions

# 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:

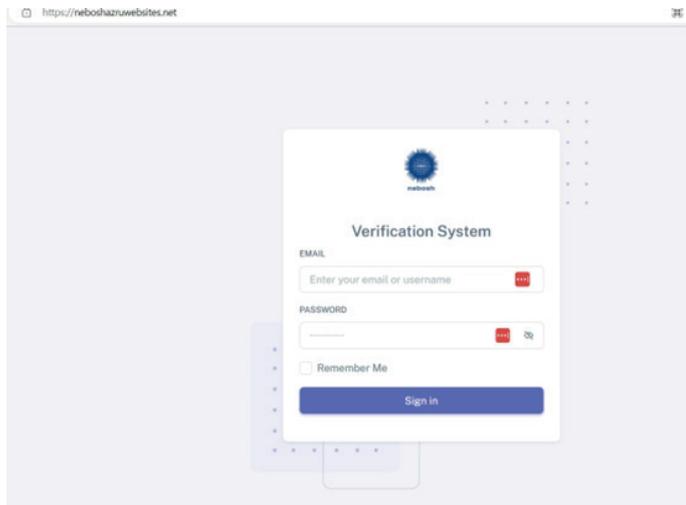
- Falsely promotes an association with NEBOSH
- Sells fake NEBOSH certificates
- Sells training from an unaccredited organisation
- Helps learners answer a live assessment
- Sells or distributes pre-written answers

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

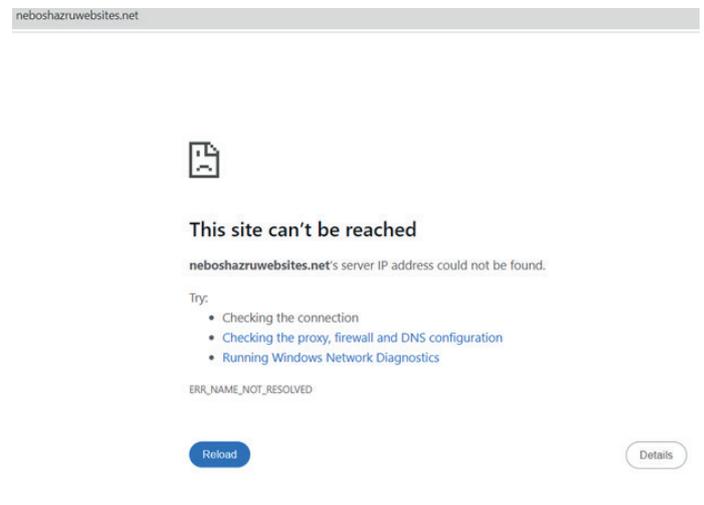
In the quarter we:

- Removed 456 social media posts and pages.
- Removed content from and/or had a site suspended on 31 websites and blogs
- Closed down 5 websites selling fake certificates

In one example (below), someone had fraudulently used NEBOSH's name and logo to set up a fake verification website to capture learner's personal information. 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](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 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](mailto: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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