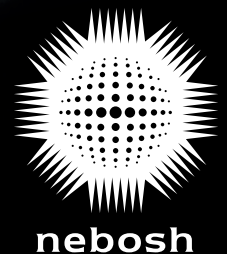


NEBOSH Ethical Practice Report

October – December 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 October - December 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: October – December 2023

1,608 investigations concluded

13 Learning Partners had accreditation removed



1,475 learners identified as engaged in malpractice

1,999 penalties issued



~~**524**~~ BANS

6 LIFETIME BANS

520 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 October - December 2023 we completed 1,608 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 1,999 penalties being issued to 1,475 learners in this reporting period. They included:

- 6 lifetime bans
- 27 five-year bans
- 168 three-year bans
- 127 two-year bans
- 196 one-year bans

In addition, 13 Learning Partners had their accreditation removed. Reasons ranged from working with unapproved organisations to not providing satisfactory assurances about malpractice.

NEBOSH Ethical Practice Report

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 – working with others, purchasing answers or using artificial intelligence (AI) tools are all examples of malpractice.

NEBOSH is aware of incidents when learners have copied 'model' answers that have been written by third parties and then shared or sold. Please be advised that NEBOSH has identified – and sanctioned – a significant number of learners who have used 'model' answers in Arabic-language IG1 assessments. All answers must be wholly each learner's own work. Any evidence of copying, collusion, or plagiarism will be investigated. If malpractice is confirmed, NEBOSH will apply severe sanctions.

In another investigation, a learner's IG1 assessment was flagged by our anti-plagiarism software as having a high degree of similarity to another learner. Further inspection found prompts in the work, apparently written by a third party. This was an aggravating factor and the learner received a five-year ban from NEBOSH assessments.

In one investigation, NEBOSH was contacted by an informant who claimed that a learner had used a third party to write their assessment for them. The informant supplied copies of messages and the assessment itself, which matched the learner's actual submission. The learner's result was voided and they were permanently banned from any future NEBOSH assessments.

تدرک نیبوش وجود حوادث التي قام فيها الطلاب بنسخ نموذج الإجابات " التي كتبها أطراف ثالثة، ثم شاركوها أو باعوها. يُرجى العلم بأن نيبوش قد وجدت وعاقبت عددًا كبيرًا من الطلاب الذين استخدموا "نموذج الإجابات" في الامتحانات باللغة العربية. يجب أن تكون جميع الإجابات عمل خاص لكل طالب بمفرده

سيتم فتح تحقيق عند وجود أي دليل على النسخ أو التواطؤ أو السرقة الأدبية وإذا تم تأكيد وجود تصرف غير مهني، ستقوم نيبوش بتطبيق عقوبات صارمة

In a diploma assessment, we found irregularities in two learners' answers. The answers were so excessively long that it was suspected that it would not have been possible to write that amount within the assessment window. Further analysis confirmed that AI had been used to generate much of the text. The learners' results were declared void.

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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:

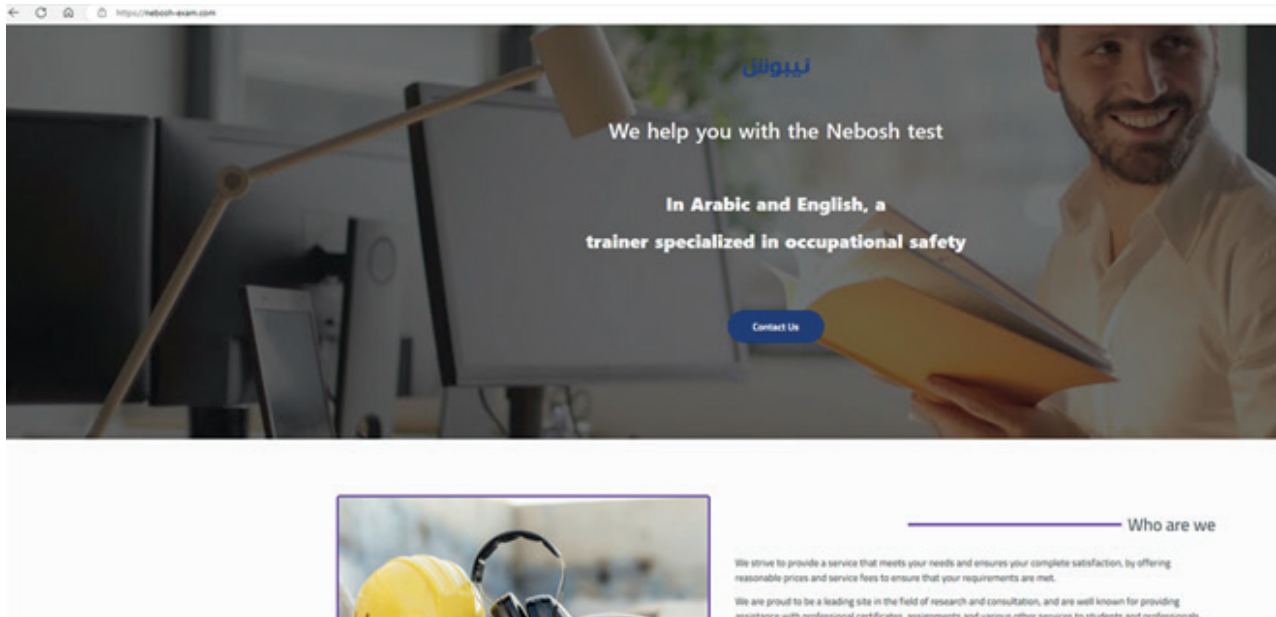
- Falsely promotes an association with NEBOSH
- Sells fake NEBOSH certificates
- Sells training from an unaccredited organisation
- Helps learners answer a live assessment
- Sells or distributes pre-written answers

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

In the quarter we:

- Removed 520 social media posts and pages.
- Removed content from and/or had a site suspended on 16 websites and blogs

In one example, someone had fraudulently used NEBOSH's name to set up a fake exam website to offer exam support (learners who purchase such services are guilty of malpractice). This was found and removed.



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 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. 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/>.

A learner contacted NEBOSH to say that the QR on their parchment was not working. Checks by NEBOSH's verification team found that the parchment had been issued to a different learner and had been deactivated when delivery could not be confirmed. The learner who tried to fraudulently verify the parchment was permanently banned from sitting any NEBOSH assessments in future.

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NEBOSH

5 Dominus Way
Meridian Business Park
Leicester LE19 1QW
United Kingdom

www.nebosh.org.uk

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