

[REDACTED]

01 April 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information Act 2000– Information request (ref: FOI_19-069)

We have now considered your request of 03 March 2019 for information relating to plagiarism detection.

Our response is on page 2 of this letter, together with a copy of your request.

On this occasion it is not possible to provide some of the requested information. In line with your rights under section 1(1)(a) of the Act to be informed whether information is held, we confirm that the University does not hold information relevant to question 3 of your request, as we do not routinely use plagiarism detection tools during assessment of work.

We hope this information will meet your requirements, however if you are not satisfied you have the right of appeal. If you wish to appeal, please set out in writing your reasons for appealing and send to the above address. You must appeal within 40 working days of the date of this letter. In line with section 5.3 of the UK Government's Freedom of Information Act Code of Practice, we are not obliged to accept internal reviews after this date.

You also have a subsequent right of appeal to the Information Commissioner's Office. Further information is available on their website:

https://ico.org.uk/Global/contact_us, or by telephone on 0303 123 1113.

Please note that any material over which UEA has copyright is released on the understanding that you will comply with all relevant copyright rules regarding reproduction and/or transmission of the information provided.

Please quote our reference given at the head of this letter in all correspondence.

Yours sincerely

Kirsty McDonald
Information Compliance Assistant
University of East Anglia

Response to Freedom of Information Act 2000 request (FOI_19-069)

Does the University use any kind of plagiarism detection tools – for example turn-it-in

Yes, UEA uses Turnitin, but it is used only as a text matching software where plagiarism is already suspected.

If the University does use a plagiarism detection tool, is the similarity/originality report something that internal (or external) assessors can routinely see as part of any assessment?

No, it is not routinely available.

If the University does use a plagiarism detection tool, please can you tell me the average similarity score for your University for each of the past 3 academic years. – (this would be for example the sum of the similarity scores, divided by the total number of submissions for each of 2018-19, 2017-18 and 2016-17).

[Information not held - s.1(1)(a), Freedom of Information Act]

Does the University block attempts to access contract cheating (aka Essay mills) sites from University facilities? (for example, a person trying to access such a site from one of the University's open access PCs, or using their own PC/Laptop/Phone etc whilst using University WiFi)?

No.

Does the University or any 3rd party provider used, block attempts to access contract cheating (aka Essay mills) sites from within University provided accommodation facilities?

No.