

[REDACTED]

01 May 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Information request (ref: FOI_19-102)

We have now considered your request of 02 April 2019 for information relating to contract cheating and academic misconduct.

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

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_19-102)

• How many reports have there been in the last five academic years (2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, 2018-19) of "contract cheating"?

Please break this down by academic year and include all reports of cases, including those that were investigated and those that were dropped. Please say what the result of the investigation was (eg a student was dismissed)

Zero. The University does not hold any recorded information to indicate that there have been any cases of contract cheating in the requested timeframe.

• Of the reports above, how many included "essay mill" websites?

Please break this down by year and provide any additional information, such as the website used.

Not applicable. See response to question 1.

• Please provide any guidance you have on essay mills. Please say when this guidance was updated

Contract cheating is addressed within the University's Plagiarism and Collusion Policy which is available on our webpages at:

<https://portal.uea.ac.uk/documents/6207125/7465906/Section+3+Plagiarism+and+Collusion.pdf>.

This guidance was last updated in the 2012/13 Academic Year.

• Does your university use any technology to check work for contract cheating - eg a programme that examines an essay? Please say what programme you use, when it was introduced and how much you spend on this per year.

Yes, the UEA uses Turnitin but only as a text matching software where plagiarism is already suspected. Turnitin was first introduced in September 2007. Our total spend for the 2018/19 academic year is £20,984.00.