

**Title:** *Narrative Report on SSDC Cases in 2011-12*  
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*Sub-heading of 'Strictly Confidential' to be inserted if not classified as 'Open' – if Open remove*

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**Freedom of Information Advisory Note:**

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**Issue**

The report summarises and suggests learning points from the SSDC cases considered in the academic year 2012-13

**Recommendation**

The committee is asked to note the report

**Resource Implications**

N/A

**Risk Implications**

N/A

**Equality and Diversity**

The report has no E & D implications

**Timing of decisions**

N/A

**Further Information**

## SSDC Narrative Summary 2012/13

### Background:

The University hears a number of formal disciplinary cases each year and annual statistical reports are reported to LTC in December of each year. However, the statistical data provides only raw numbers and does not allow us to develop a more detailed picture of University discipline in relation to poor academic conduct and the types of student behaviour that lead to non-academic disciplinary cases. This is the second year in which a brief narrative analysis of SSDC cases is being provided LTC. It is hoped that as this richer data accumulates it will assist SSDC in understanding behavioural trends, fine tuning our approaches to penalty guidelines and developing the University's management of disciplinary matters.

### Analysis of Cases by Type:

#### Regulation 13

Breaches of Regulation 13 fell by a significant margin in 2012-13. In the previous year these breaches totalled 50 and made up the majority of SSDC cases. This year there were only 18 cases considered by SSDC under Regulation 13. This suggests that the University's increasing focus on attendance and engagement may be gaining ground in terms of discernible changes to student behaviour.

#### Regulation 18

Plagiarism and/ or collusion cases have remained almost static with 10 cases being heard in the year compared to 11 cases being considered in the previous year. There is a separate statistical report which deals with the totality of plagiarism and collusion including those cases which are not sufficiently serious to be referred to SSDC for consideration.

The number of cases in which the level of plagiarism was deemed either to require an educative response or disciplinary action short of referral to SSDC have also remained approximately static.

#### Regulation 14

These cases present the greatest complexity as they are concerned with matters of professional suitability and conduct. However, the number of cases is very small: There were a total of 3 cases referred to SSDC and while this is half the number referred in the previous year the total numbers are too small for this to be treated as indicative of any real shift in the level of professional misconduct and/ or unsuitability on the programmes where this regulation is applied.

#### Regulation 17

This is the first year that Regulation 17 cases, which relate to cheating in assessments, have made up the majority of cases considered by SSDC. The numbers, as a proportion of assessed students, is still very low, but nonetheless the University will need to monitor the developing picture around cheating in assessments very closely.

#### Non-Academic Discipline

Non-academic cases continue to be rare and no cases were considered by SSDC in the period under review. However, it should be noted that there are a very small number of cases that are currently awaiting the outcome of legal proceedings, before any decision as to how to proceed is taken, in accordance with the University regulations.