

**Mr John Gilchrist**  
Freedom of Information Officer

12 January 2018

Ref: FOI/December 2017/ Sian Bayley

By email to sbayley07@gmail.com

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Dear Ms Bayley

Your request for information received on 11 December 2017 has been dealt with under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

You asked:

I would like to know:

- 1) The university's latest policy on contract cheating, where students pay freelancers to write an original essay for them, and then submit it as their own work. I would like to know how the university hopes to combat this growing problem, not plagiarism more generally (if such a policy exists, if not, please indicate this)
- 2) The number of cases the university has identified as potential instances of contract cheating from 2012 to the present day, or the last day where data is held.
- 3) What action (if any) was taken against students suspected of contract cheating from 2012 to the present day, or the last day where data is held.
- 4) The gender of any students suspected of contract cheating, and whether they were UK, EU, or International students.

### **University Response**

- 1) Regulations Section F covers Academic Misconduct ([http://www.mdx.ac.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0026/424178/Regulations-2017-18-Final.pdf](http://www.mdx.ac.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0026/424178/Regulations-2017-18-Final.pdf)) and contract cheating/3<sup>rd</sup> party assessment. Academic Registry is working with the Academic Faculties, the Library and Student Support and the Students' Union to try to combat this.

The attachment to this document provides a response to the remaining queries.

I trust this satisfies your request sufficiently. Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, you have the right to complain about the University's response to your request for information. If you have such a complaint, you may contact Mrs Teresa Kelly, Clerk to the Board of Governors, Middlesex University, Hendon campus, London NW4 4BT, tel: 020 8411 6018, [t.kelly@mdx.ac.uk](mailto:t.kelly@mdx.ac.uk) within 40 days of the date of this letter for a review of the University's decision. If you remain unsatisfied with the outcome of that complaint, you may seek further recourse by lodging an appeal with the Information Commissioner.

Yours sincerely

**John Gilchrist**  
Freedom of Information Officer