

WORKSHOPS

LEGAL APPROACHES TO TACKLING ESSAY MILLS AND 'CONTRACT CHEATING'

Michael Draper, Phil Newton

Abstract: Many strategies have been adopted or proposed to address the use of Essay Mills and other 'contract cheating' services by students. There have been calls for the use of legal mechanisms as one lever to change behaviour. This was recently advocated by the UK regulator of Higher Education, the Quality Assurance Agency, following the meeting of an expert forum which included one of the presenters. The report's conclusion had been independently arrived at by the other presenter.

In our article published in the *International Journal for Educational Integrity* we address the use of legal approaches. The aim of this workshop is to consider further the legal and extra-legal approaches to the problem of contract cheating and to explore the issues and solutions arising from cross border jurisdictions. It is not uncommon for an essay mill company to be registered in one country contracting out work to writers domiciled in another with the student customer placing their order from yet another country. Solutions will be found in co-ordinated national and international action.

Key words: contract cheating, plagiarism, fraud, essay mill, law

Authors

Michael John Draper (m.j.draper@swansea.ac.uk), Phil Newton
(p.newton@swansea.ac.uk), Swansea University, Wales, United Kingdom