

Will Law and Regulation change the behaviours of Essay Mills?

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Keywords: law, regulation, essay mills, behaviour

Many strategies have been proposed to address the supply of bespoke essays and other assignments by companies often described as ‘Essay Mills’ with the act of supply and demand being invariably described as ‘contract cheating’. These proposals increasingly refer to the law and regulation as a solution in common with other actions.

In this presentation the presenter revisits published work undertaken in 2016, as a result of recent legal and extra-legal developments in the UK since 2016, to determine whether there has been any change in the behaviours of Essay Mills.

It was previously found that all sites have disclaimers regarding the use of their products but there were some obvious contradictions in the activities of the sites which undermined those disclaimers, for example plagiarism-free guarantees for the work.

In this presentation I consider whether this is still the case with regard to the impact of a change in the law by the UK supreme court and recent action of the UK Advertising Standards Authority.

The key issue explored by this presentation is whether there is evidence that Essay Mills have, or will change their behaviour, as result of state and regulatory intervention.

This is a critical point given that the ETINED platform of the Council of Europe propose regulation in this area for the 50 member states of the Council of Europe: work that the presenter is currently engaged with. This presentation will consider the work of the ETINED platform address whether law and regulation will in the final analysis have an impact on the behaviours of Essay Mills.