

Reference: FOI 25015

Details of the request:

Under the Freedom of Information act 2000, I request the following information:

- 1) How many cases of students cheating/academic misconduct has there been in this academic year (24/25) so far
- 2) How many cases of students cheating/academic misconduct was there last academic year (23/24)
- 3) How many cases of students cheating/academic misconduct has there been in the past five years?
- 4) Please break down and specify the different categories of cheating/misconduct and how you have discovered this information.

Summary

LSBU is able to supply all of the information request.	x
The information (or links to the information if it is already published) set out below.	
LSBU is able to supply part of the information requested.	
The information (or links to the information if it is already published) set out below, together with the reason for the partial response.	
LSBU is unable to supply any of the information requests. Reasons set out below.	

Details of our response:

Exemption:

Exemption	Applied?	Rationale
Section 21 – information already reasonably accessible		
Section 22 – information intended for future publication		
Section 22A – research information		
Sections 30 and 31 – investigations and prejudice to law enforcement		
Section 40(2) – personal information		
Section 43 – trade secrets and prejudice to commercial interests		

Response:

- 1) 12 referrals
 - 2) 199 referrals
 - 3) 2022/23: 243 referrals
 2021/22: 448 referrals
 2020/21: 769 referrals
 2019/20: 451 referrals
 - 4) List of possible offences:
 - Plagiarism
 - Self-plagiarism
 - Collusion
 - Cheating in an examination
 - Fabrication of Data
 - Contract Cheating
 - Misuse of AI
 - Breach of Regulations
- There are a number of ways that a case can be picked up and this depends on the assessment type.

For an exam, it will likely be from the exam invigilator reports or can be picked up by the Marker.

For coursework, it will likely be picked up from the Marker and Module Leader. All work will be run through Turnitin detector software to determine originality, and it can check for plagiarism/collusion and use of AI.

It may be that the University could be alerted to a possible academic misconduct offence by a third party, such as essay mill companies, which would trigger an investigation into the work. There may be discrepancies in the work that the Marker/Module Leader notices, such as references or language; they may then pass this over to an Academic Integrity Coordinator to begin an investigation.

If you wish to request a review, please set out in writing your reasons and send it within 2 months of the date of this letter to the Group Chief People and Legal Officer, London South Bank University, 103 Borough Road, London, SE1 0AA. We will aim to carry out the review within 20 working days, or in exceptional circumstances within 40 working days.

If you are not satisfied with the review decision, you have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner whose contact details can be found at <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/>