**FOI2025-26 001**

**Request**

Please see below a request under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act. To ask how many investigations the SQA has carried out in relation to cheating by use of artificial intelligence (AI) in each of the past three years. In addition, how many penalties were issued as a result, and what were the nature of these penalties? Could this be broken down by year and either school or local authority area

Please find our response to the above request detailed in the tables below:

How many investigations SQA has carried out in relation to cheating by use of artificial intelligence (AI) in each of the past three years (including penalty totals):

**Table 1:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **AI Investigations** | **Total Penalties** | **Warnings** | **Cancelled Component** | **No further action** |
| 2022 | 0 | 0 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| 2023 | \* | \* | \* | \* | 0 |
| 2024 | 31\*\* | 31\*\* | 0 | 31\*\* | 0 |

\*Numbers less than 5 are supressed to protect learner confidentiality and avoid the risk of identification.

\*\*Data validation is ongoing and means this total could change.

In addition, how many penalties were issued as a result, and what were the nature of these penalties? Could this be broken down by year and either school or local authority area.

**Table 2:**

**2023 AI Malpractice Investigations**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Local Authority/sector** | **Number of instances of malpractice: plagiarism involving the use of AI** | **Penalty Applied** |
| Highland |  | Cancel Component  Warning |
| Aberdeenshire | \* |
| Argyll and Bute |  |

**Table 3:**

**2024 AI Malpractice Investigations**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Local authority / sector** | **Number of instances of malpractice:** | **Penalty Applied** |
| **plagiarism involving the use of AI** |  |
| Aberdeen | \* | Cancel Component |
| Aberdeen City | \* | Cancel Component |
| Aberdeenshire | \* | Cancel Component |
| Dumfries & Galloway | \* | Cancel Component |
| East Ayrshire | \* | Cancel Component |
| East Dunbartonshire | \* | Cancel Component |
| East Lothian | \* | Cancel Component |
| Edinburgh, City of | \* | Cancel Component |
| Falkirk | \* | Cancel Component |
| Fife | \* | Cancel Component |
| Glasgow City | \* | Cancel Component |
| Highland | \* | Cancel Component |
| Inverclyde | \* | Cancel Component |
| Moray | \* | Cancel Component |
| North Lanarkshire | \* | Cancel Component |
| South Lanarkshire | \* | Cancel Component |
| West Lothian | \* | Cancel Component |
| Western Isles | \* | Cancel Component |
| College | \* | Cancel Component |
| **Grand Total** | **31** |  |