



cmetb

Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna
an Chabháin agus Mhuineacháin
*Cavan and Monaghan
Education and Training Board*

Assessment Reference Framework

Assessment Malpractice

Version 2.2 – QA, Aug 2019

Drafted by:

**ETBI National Assessment Procedures Handbook Working Group
SEPTEMBER 2017**

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1. Principles of Assessment in Relation to Assessment Malpractice

Assessment is underpinned by the **principles of assessment** including the **fair** principle (equal opportunity for all learners) and **consistent** principle (consistency in approach to assessment across ETBs, programmes and modules). As such, in order to ensure the fair and consistent assessment of learners, the following procedure should be followed in relation to any suspected malpractice cases. The provider's Quality Assurance System overarches these principles and ensures learner achievement is assessed in a fair and consistent way in line with the national standards for the award.

The following sets forth the principles of assessment which apply to this document: these principles are based on the QQI (2013) principles for assessment.

1. Validity

Validity is a fundamental assessment principle ensuring that an assessment measures what it is designed to measure: the relevant standard of knowledge, skill or competence required for an award should be assessed.

Validity in assessment occurs when:

- Assessment is fit for purpose (i.e. a practical assessment assesses a practical skill)
- Learners can produce evidence which can be measured against the award standard
- Assessors can make accurate assessment decisions
- Assessment is accessible to all candidates who are potentially able to achieve it

2. Reliability

Reliability in assessment ensures that assessment measurement is accurate: the knowledge, skills and competence which the assessment measures should produce reliable and accurate results. Reliability in assessment ensures that results are consistent under similar conditions.

Reliability in assessment occurs when:

- The assessment is based on valid assessment techniques
- Assessment conditions are consistent
- Learner evidence is reliable
- Results are consistent across various assessors, contexts, conditions and learners over time.

3. Fair

Fairness in assessment supports the validity and reliability principles and provides equal opportunity to all learners. Fairness in assessment ensures: learners have access to appropriate resources/equipment in assessment; assessment design and implementation are fair to all learners; and policies and procedures exist to ensure fair assessment of learners.

4. Quality

Quality in assessment ensures that all assessment processes are quality assured.

5. Transparency

Transparency in assessment ensures that assessment policy and procedures provide clarity to all relevant stakeholders.

Based on QQI Principles for Assessment (QQI, 2013)

2. Definitions

2.1 Assessment System Irregularity and Assessment Malpractice

It is important to distinguish between **assessment system irregularity** and **assessment system malpractice**. The decision on whether an issue is deemed to be considered an assessment system alleged irregularity or malpractice will relate to the intent, scale or fraudulent nature of the incident by the offender. An issue that may initially be adjudged to be an assessment system irregularity could, after preliminary investigation, be determined to be an alleged malpractice issue. Where such an issue is deemed to be an alleged malpractice, the procedures outlined in this document must be utilised.

2.1.1 Definition of Assessment System Irregularity

Assessment system irregularities are typically accidental omissions or mistakes which are detected by mechanisms within the assessment system, are corrected, and which do not impact on the validity of the assessment. These could include test administration errors, missing assessment data, errors in transcription etc. which are detected and rectified. All instances of irregularities should be documented and addressed in line with this procedure.

2.1.2 Definition of Assessment Malpractice

An assessment system malpractice is any act or practice which brings into question the validity or integrity of the assessment process and which normally arises due to one or more non-accidental factors.

Two categories of malpractice exist:

- Learner Malpractice
- Staff Malpractice

This procedure relates to Learner Malpractice only.

2.2. Learner Malpractice

Learner Malpractice is defined as malpractice committed by a learner during the course of the assessment process.

Examples of learner malpractice include but are not limited to:

2.2.1 Plagiarism

Learner plagiarism is defined as the practice of learners submitting any work for assessment that is not their own original work. This could be any percentage of work that has not been referenced and has been copied from published work, the internet, other learners' work and/or other sources.

The tutor/assessor will calculate if and how much of the content is plagiarised and follow the appropriate process i.e. Fail the full assessment or subtract marks for the plagiarised section as penalisation.

Plagiarism in assessment may include but is not limited to:

- Representing work completed by and/or authored by another person (including other learners, family, work colleagues and friends) as their own
- Procuring work from a company or external source including the internet
- Copying work from any source or medium without reference (i.e. website, book, journal article)
- Taking a passage of text, or an idea, and summarising it without acknowledging the original source
- Passing off collaborative work as one's own
- Piecing together sections of others' work into a new whole
- Submitting another learner's work with or without their knowledge.

The submission of such plagiarised materials for assessment purposes is fraudulent and all suspected cases will be investigated and dealt with appropriately using the procedures outlined in this document.

Suspected cases of plagiarism will only be investigated when there is a declaration of authenticity which has been signed by the learner. Any electronic assessment submitted is deemed as having been declared as authentic by the learner.

A tutor who suspects that a submitted piece of student work may be plagiarised should adhere to the following procedure by firstly determining whether it represents a "minor" or a "major" offence.

MINOR CASES OF PLAGIARISM

Minor cases are those in which the suspected plagiarism is a first offence and represents poor academic practice. Such cases include:

- Apparently innocent misuse of materials
- Inadequate citation such as poor referencing, inappropriate paraphrasing
- Over-reliance on sources without sufficient input of the candidate's own work
- Those in which the suspected plagiarism represents only a small proportion of the work and/or an element in a piece of work which makes a small contribution to the mark for the module.

DEALING WITH ALLEGED MINOR CASES OF PLAGIARISM

The tutor, in such cases, may not impose any reduction of marks or in some cases may make a small reduction in marks as appropriate. Learner to be advised that a second offence of plagiarism will be treated as a major case.

MAJOR CASES OF PLAGIARISM

Major cases are those which may include, for example:

- Copying multiple paragraphs in full without acknowledgement of the source
- Taking essays from the internet without revealing the source
- Copying all or much of the work of a fellow student with, or without, his/her knowledge or consent
- A second offence where the student has been in receipt of an earlier warning.

DEALING WITH ALLEGED MAJOR CASES OF PLAGIARISM

Sanctions

In such major cases, where the teacher is satisfied that an act of plagiarism has occurred, the teacher will impose an immediate penalty, which will normally be the award of zero marks to the plagiarised piece within the assessment.

2.2.2 Unacceptable Behaviour

Unacceptable behaviour in assessment may include but is not limited to:

- Unauthorised removal of assessment material from the assessment location
- Deliberate damage to or destroying of assessment related materials
- Use of electronic communication device/technology or other unauthorised materials during the assessment
- Assisting other learners during the assessment
- In an assessment event (e.g. examination), any form of communication with other learners (written, verbal, gestures, expressions, pointing, etc.)
- Collusion by working collaboratively with other learners, beyond what is allowed
- Copying from another learner (both parties involved in the investigation)
- Fabrication of results and/or evidence
- Falsification (faulty data collection methods)
- Behaving in such a way as to undermine the integrity of the assessment event or process.
- Impersonation by pretending to be someone else in order to produce the work for another or arranging for another to take one's place in an assessment
- Engaging in unsafe practices in assessment
- Disruptive, violent and offensive behaviour in relation to assessment
- Tampering or interfering with assessment materials or another learner's work
- Submission for assessment of a piece of work that has been purchased/procured from another source where the work is not the learner's own work.
- List is not exhaustive

Multiple offences will cause further implications.

3. Malpractice Roles and Responsibilities

3.1 All Staff

All staff involved in the assessment process, have a responsibility for ensuring the integrity and validity of the CMETB assessment system. All staff must ensure that they are aware of policies and procedure in relation to:

- planning for assessment
- conducting of assessment
- conclusion of assessment

A person making an allegation of malpractice invoking the Protected Disclosures Act 2014 must follow the CMETB's Protected Disclosures policy and procedures.

Additionally, all staff involved in the assessment process must ensure that the assessment process is conducted in line with quality assurance policies and procedures and that any variances in assessment system practices are investigated appropriately as outlined in this procedure.

3.2 The Manager

The manager (including the Centre Manager) is required to adhere to the role and responsibility outlined above for all staff.

3.3 The Programme Co-ordinator

The Programme Co-ordinator is required to adhere to the role and responsibility outlined above for all staff. Additionally, the Programme Co-ordinator must also ensure that all Learning Practitioners are made aware of their roles and responsibilities in relation to the assessment process. The Programme Co-ordinator must also ensure that Learning Practitioners are made aware of the policies and procedure in relation to the assessment process and the process of investigation of any suspected malpractice.

3.4 The Learning Practitioner

The Learning Practitioner is required to adhere to the role and responsibility outlined above for all staff. Additionally, the Learning Practitioner must be aware of the policies and procedures in relation to the assessment process.

4. Suspected Learner Malpractice Procedure

Any suspected learner malpractice should follow the process outlined in Figure 1.1

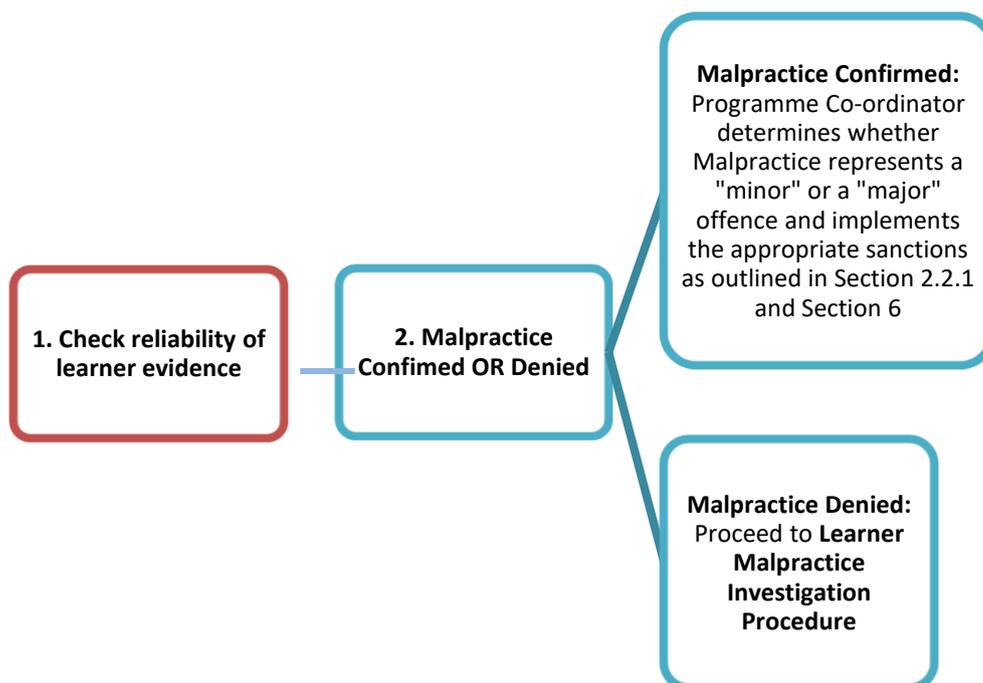


Figure 1.1 Suspected Learner Malpractice (Plagiarism) Procedure

4.1 Check Reliability of Learner Evidence

In the event of suspected learner malpractice, the Learning Practitioner must check the learner assessment evidence for reliability using plagiarism software and/or questioning outlined in Table 1 and meet with the learner to discuss the assessment evidence.

Table 1: Reliability of Learner Evidence

Reliability of Learner Evidence	
Where the Learning Practitioner is not in a direct position to observe the learner carrying out the assessment activity or collecting the evidence first hand, e.g. when a portfolio or project is used, s/he must be confident that the evidence was actually produced by the learner, i.e. it is reliable learner evidence. This is particularly important when group assessment is used. The following are ways in which the Learning Practitioner may ascertain that the learner evidence produced is reliable and genuine. The Learning Practitioner should, where appropriate, implement a range of these.	
Questioning:	This involves asking the learner to explain and describe part of the evidence. It is important to concentrate on how the evidence was produced. This will enable the learner to show that s/he was responsible for producing the evidence and will also give the learner the opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills required. Questioning may include using the following methods:

Authorship Statement:	An authorship statement from the learner testifying the evidence as being his/her original work. An authorship statement could be provided with regard to all evidence submitted.
Personal Log:	This is a record of how the learner planned and developed the evidence. A personal log should identify problems and how they were overcome by the learner.
Personal Statements:	A personal statement may be used to explain the actions of the learner in carrying out activities or producing the evidence. Personal statements should be clear and explain the learner's role and the context in which the evidence was produced. Personal statements can provide evidence of knowledge and understanding.
Peer Reports:	Peer reports are especially suitable for group work. Peer reports are reports drafted by all group members which can help explain individual involvement in a task or project.
Independent Testimony:	This is a statement produced by an individual other than the Learning Practitioner, which confirms that the learner has carried out a series of tasks or produced a product. It should record what the learner has demonstrated and corroborate the learner evidence submitted. The identity and role of the individual to provide the testimony for the learner should be agreed in advance between the Learning Practitioner and the learner. The use of independent testimony is not intended as a mechanism for assessing learner evidence but as a tool to corroborate the reliability of that evidence.

4.2 Malpractice Confirmed/Denied

4.2.1 Malpractice Confirmed

On completion of the checking of learner evidence and meeting with the learner, the learner may **acknowledge** that his/her assessment evidence has been plagiarised either by poor academic honesty or dishonestly. In this case, the Programme Co-ordinator issues a written warning if this is the learner's first offence within the Centre and learner evidence for that element of module is treated/marked according to sanctions.

4.2.2 Malpractice Denied

On completion of the checking of learner evidence and meeting with the learner, the learner may **deny** that his/her assessment evidence has been plagiarised either by poor academic honesty or dishonestly. In this case, an investigation must take place (see Section 5: Learner Malpractice Investigation Procedure).

5. Learner Malpractice Investigation Procedure

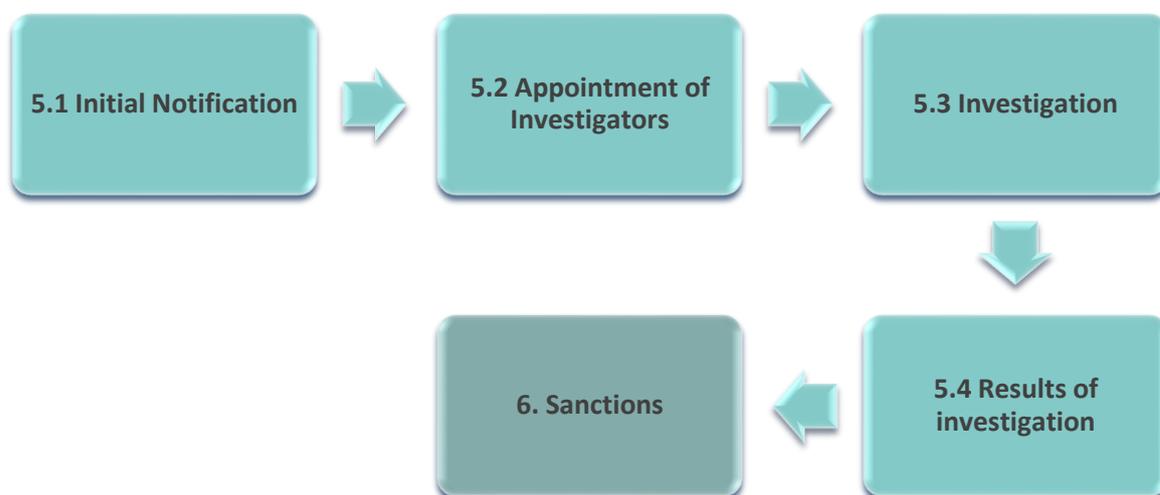


Figure 1.2 Learner Malpractice Investigation Procedure

5.1 Initial Notification

In the event of suspected learner malpractice in an assessment event (e.g. examination), this should be dealt with promptly by the **Assessment Invigilator** and in accordance with the **Learning Practitioner Guidelines** (**Learning Practitioner Handbook**). These instances must be recorded by the **Invigilators Report**.

In all cases where an alleged malpractice is identified, it must be notified to the **Programme Co-ordinator** and/or other personnel with responsibility for the operation of the programme. Notification must be in writing.

5.2 Appointment of Investigators

The **Centre Manager** will decide who should undertake the investigation in consultation with his/her senior management team. It is recommended that at least two staff members are involved in the investigation and should include the **Programme Co-ordinator** and a **Learning Practitioner** with assessment experience (unless there is a conflict of interest, see 5.2.1). The **Centre Manager** (or designated appropriate personnel) is required to co-ordinate the investigation. In certain cases, if required, and in conjunction with the relevant Manager, an investigation may be undertaken by:

- An external investigator

- Internal Audit

The Centre Manager (or nominee) must complete the ***Alleged Assessment System Malpractice Report*** (see **Appendix 1: Section 1: General**). It is important that only one report per learner is completed. If the alleged assessment system malpractice is suspected for more than one learner, separate forms must be used.

Any person who has a possible conflict of interest should not be involved in any investigation or subsequent making of judgments (see 5.2.1. Conflict of Interest).

5.2.1 Conflict of Interest

Conflict of interest means any issue that might unfairly influence, or appear to influence, the outcome of an investigation. Possible Conflict of Interest relates to situations where personnel:

- Have a personal relationship or family relationship with the learner being investigated
- Have a professional relationship with the learner being investigated that may be perceived to unfairly influence the investigation process

The relevant Centre Manager shall be responsible for ensuring that a conflict of interest does not arise and that all members of an investigation panel sign a declaration to that effect (see Appendix 2). In cases where conflict of interest is identified, alternative arrangements must be put in place.

5.2.2 Natural Justice

Those responsible for conducting an investigation shall establish the full facts and circumstances of any alleged assessment system malpractice. It should not be assumed that an allegation equates to proof of a malpractice. Any investigation into an alleged malpractice shall have due regard to the principles of natural justice. As such, it is necessary that those responsible for managing the conduct of any investigation must ensure adherence to these principles. This includes ensuring that:

- All investigations do not disadvantage the person against whom the allegation is made and are concluded within a reasonable timeframe (it is expected that this should be completed as promptly and as efficiently as possible except in exceptional circumstances which may take a maximum of 40 working days excluding holiday periods from the date of the notification to the Centre Manager of the alleged malpractice)
- The learners in question are made aware of the allegation and are given the opportunity to respond
- Care is taken to avoid conflict of interest (see Section 5.2.1)

The learner/learners against whom an allegation is made should therefore:

- Know what evidence exists to support that allegation
- Know the possible consequences should an assessment system malpractice be proven
- Have the opportunity to consider their response to the allegations (if required)
- Have an opportunity to submit a written statement

- Have an opportunity to seek advice (as necessary) and to provide a supplementary statement (if required)
- Be informed of the applicable appeals procedure, should a decision be made against him or her
- Be informed of the possibility that information relating to a particular malpractice may be shared with other relevant parties

5.3 Investigation

All notified alleged assessment system malpractices must be investigated.

It is expected that the investigation should be completed as promptly and as efficiently as possible except in exceptional circumstances which may take up to a defined timeframe (maximum of 40 working days excluding holiday periods) from the date of the notification to the Centre Manager of the alleged malpractice.

5.3.1 Communication with Learner/Learners to be Investigated

The relevant Centre Manager (or nominee) shall be responsible for communicating in writing to the learner to be investigated, in relation to the alleged assessment system malpractice(s).

The initial communication shall:

- Provide notification that an allegation of an assessment system malpractice has been received
- Advise that the Centre Procedures for Managing Assessment System Malpractices contain full details of how the investigation will be conducted
- Emphasise that the investigation will be carried out in a discreet and confidential manner except in exceptional circumstances. Exceptional circumstances cannot guarantee this confidentiality as identity may need to be disclosed to:
 - An Garda Síochána, fraud prevention agencies or other law enforcement agencies (to investigate or prevent crime including fraud)
 - The courts (in connection with court proceedings)
 - Other person(s) to whom CMETB and/or awarding bodies are required by law to disclose identity
- Avoid implying or suggesting that conclusions have already been determined or that decisions have been made in respect of the application of corrective actions

Note: Template for this communication (see Appendix 3).

5.3.1.1 Establishing the Facts within the Investigation

The investigating team should endeavour to obtain all the relevant facts about the alleged assessment system malpractice. This may be done through some or all of the steps outlined below:

- Review of allegation details

- Interview with the learner being investigated
- Interview with personnel and or management connected to the course, project or alleged malpractice
- Interview with learners connected to the course, project or alleged malpractice
- Interview with the other relevant parties
- Written statement(s) from the learner being investigated
- Written statement(s) from learners connected to the course, project or alleged malpractice
- Written statement(s) from personnel connected to the course, project or alleged malpractice
- Written statement(s) from other relevant parties
- Review of related assessment reports
- Review of previous learner record to seek to establish whether there has been **any** previous malpractice investigations previously for this learner/learners
- Other related records

5.3.2 Confidentiality

Confidentiality is a key aspect in the conduct of an investigation into an alleged malpractice, due to the risk of reputational damage to learners involved. In order to ensure confidentiality is maintained before, during and after an investigation, the following conditions should apply:

- Material relating to any allegations, findings or conclusions must not be made known to any parties, either internally or external to the Centre, beyond those key to the investigation
- It is not necessary to inform all learners being interviewed of the details of meetings with other parties unless there is a specific relevant matter to be raised
- The name or other details of the learner making the malpractice allegation should not be divulged to the learner/learners to be investigated without consent
- All material relating to the investigation must be held and stored in a secure manner. Material relating to a given investigation should be stored together on a single file. Each file should have a unique code to identify the investigation. Copies of electronic material should also be held with this file

5.4 Results of Investigation

5.4.1 The Investigation Report

Typically, the Investigation Report (see **Appendix 1: Section 2: Investigation Report**) that results from the investigation of an assessment system malpractice shall contain the following:

- Number of learners affected and/or implicated
- How the alleged malpractice was identified and notified to the relevant Centre Manager/Assessment Co-ordinator
- The nature of the malpractice and the specific assessment procedure(s) or assessment rule(s) or assessment regulation(s) that has/have allegedly been breached, as well as the award details
- Details of the scope of the investigation carried out
- The findings:
 - details of the procedure, rule and/or regulation that is alleged to have been breached
 - a statement of the facts as described by all parties
 - details of any mitigating factors.
- Any recommendations based on the findings
- Conclusion (whether the malpractice allegation is substantiated or unsubstantiated)

While the investigating team are required to make recommendations based on the findings, the team should not adjudicate on the report findings.

The report will be signed and dated by the investigating team. Any written statements, notes of interviews or other relevant documentation reviewed or obtained as part of the investigation must be filed separately and securely as part of the investigation process.

5.4.1.1 Report Findings Adjudication

The Investigation Report is submitted to the relevant Centre Manager. The relevant Centre Manager (or nominee) adjudicates on the report findings and notifies the person(s) involved in writing as to whether the allegation has been substantiated or not. Where the allegation is substantiated, the notification will include details of the appeal process in regard to the findings and the sanctions/consequences for this breach of the assessment malpractice. The Centre Manager must complete the Findings Adjudication and Communication of Findings (see **Appendix 1: Section 3: Findings Adjudication and Communication of Findings**).

5.4.2 Communicating the Results

The relevant Centre Manager (or nominee) is responsible for ensuring that the notification of the alleged assessment system malpractice investigation finding is communicated to the relevant learners in a timely manner from the date of receipt of the investigator's report.

The finding of an investigation into an alleged assessment system malpractice may be:

- Unsubstantiated Assessment System Malpractice

- Substantiated Assessment System Malpractice.

Note: Template for this communication (see Appendix 4).

5.4.3 Unsubstantiated Assessment System Malpractice

If the assessment system malpractice is found to be unsubstantiated, the relevant Centre Manager (or nominee) will convey the findings of the investigation, in writing and within the timeline specified, to the learners(s) involved. A record of the investigation is kept on file.

5.4.4 Substantiated Assessment System Malpractice

Where the allegation is substantiated, the relevant Centre Manager (or nominee) will convey the findings of the investigation, in writing and within the timeline specified, to the learners(s) involved and should include details of the sanctions/consequences of the assessment system malpractice.

In addition, the notification to the person must also outline the Assessment System Malpractice Appeal process and the timeline in regard to the appealing the findings.

5.4.5 Communicating the Findings to Other Persons

In addition, the relevant Centre Manager (or nominee) will convey, as appropriate, the outcome of the assessment system malpractice investigation in writing to the relevant manager.

6. Sanctions for Assessment System Malpractice

Depending on the findings of an investigation and the outcome adjudicated, further steps, such as **sanctions** or **disciplinary action**, may be required.

6.1 Sanctions

About SANCTIONS	
Sanctions are dependent on:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The severity of the malpractice ▪ History of substantiated assessment malpractice by learner in the centre (if, for example, findings from a previous investigation have evidence of substantiated assessment malpractice against the learner in the Centre) ▪ Nature of assessment activity

Examples of sanctions which may be taken (this list is not exhaustive):	
<p>1. Written warning and assignment is marked, depending on whether it is a “minor” or a “major” case</p>	<p>When might this happen?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Unacceptable Behaviour – see Section 2.2.2 <p>What happens? The tutor may not impose any reduction of marks or in some cases may make a reduction in marks or give zero marks to the assessment, as appropriate</p> <p>MINOR CASES OF PLAGIARISM (this list is not exhaustive)</p> <p>Minor cases are those in which the suspected plagiarism is a first offence and represents poor academic practice. Such cases include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apparently innocent misuse of materials • Inadequate citation such as poor referencing, inappropriate paraphrasing • Over-reliance on sources without sufficient input of the candidates own work • Those in which the suspected plagiarism represents only a small proportion of the work and/or element in a piece of work which makes a small contribution to the mark for the module <p>What happens? The tutor may not impose any reduction of marks or in some cases may make a reduction in marks as appropriate.</p> <p>MAJOR CASES OF PLAGIARISM Major cases are those which may include, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copying multiple paragraphs in full without acknowledgement of the source • Taking essays from the internet without revealing the source

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copying all or much of the work of a fellow student with, or without, his/her knowledge or consent • A second offence where the student has been in receipt of an earlier warning. <p>What happens?</p> <p>In such major cases, where the tutor is satisfied that an act of plagiarism has occurred, they will impose an immediate penalty, which will normally be the award of zero marks to the plagiarised piece within the assessment.</p>
2. Evidence for the entire module marked as zero and submitted	<p>When might this happen?</p> <p>It is envisaged that this will occur in the following instances (this list is not exhaustive):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Unacceptable behaviour (see 2.2.2) ▪ Large element of assessment evidence is not the original work of the learner (copied from another learner, poor academic honesty in assessment evidence, etc.) <p>What happens?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Evidence from the learner is marked as zero and submitted

3. Results will not be submitted, or will be cancelled (exceptional case)	<p>When might this happen?</p> <p>It is envisaged that this will occur in the following instances (this list is not exhaustive):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Unacceptable behaviour (see 2.2.2) <p>What happens?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CMETB may withhold or cancel results and/or certificates if there is evidence to prove, or on the balance of probabilities it is found, that the results/certificate(s) issued to the learner are invalid.
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6.2 Disciplinary Action

About DISCIPLINARY ACTION	
Disciplinary Action is dependent on:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The severity of the malpractice ▪ History of substantiated assessment malpractice by learner in the centre (if, for example, findings from a previous investigation have evidence of substantiated assessment malpractice against the learner in the Centre) ▪ Nature of assessment activity
Disciplinary Action	
Disciplinary Action will be in line with the relevant Centre and CMETB policy guidelines.	

6.3 Communication of Sanctions to the Learner

If no appeal has been lodged, the relevant Centre Manager (or nominee) can proceed to notify the learner, in writing, of any sanctions being imposed.

The notification will include details of the Assessment System Malpractice Sanction Appeal process, including the timeline for an appeal of a sanction.

6.4 Implementation of Sanctions to Learners

If no appeal has been lodged, the relevant Centre Manager (or nominee) can proceed to implement the sanctions.

7. Appeals of Assessment System Malpractice Finding

The learner has the right to appeal the decision in relation to assessment malpractice. Appeals must be made within a **defined** timeframe of ten (10) working days excluding holiday periods of the decision. In exceptional circumstances the Programme Co-ordinator may extend this. All appeals must be made in writing using the Appeals Assessment System Malpractice Application Form (see Appendix 5). The Appeals process is processed in line with CMETB appeals policy.

The grounds on which the appeal process can be activated are as follows:

- The alleged malpractice was not dealt with in accordance with fair procedures
- The regulations did not adequately cover the circumstances relating to the malpractice
- New information has become available that was not available to the investigation
- Decision was wrong and not supported by evidence

Decisions on appeals are final.

References

QQI (2013) Quality Assuring Assessment Guidelines for Providers. Available at:

<https://www.qqi.ie/Downloads/Quality%20Assuring%20Assessment%20-%20Guidelines%20for%20Providers%2c%20Revised%202013.pdf>

APPENDIX 1: Alleged Assessment Malpractice Report Template

Alleged Assessment System Malpractice Report Template

STRICTLY PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

SECTION 1: GENERAL

Case Ref: _____

Provider Details			
Centre Name:			
Address:			
Course Reference Number/Contract Number/Course Code (as applicable):			
Contact Name:		Position:	
Email Address:		Contact No:	
Assessment Details			
Award Details (Type/Level/Title):	<i>e.g. Level 5 Minor Computer Applications</i>		
Title of Assessment:			
Assessment Location:			
Description of Alleged Malpractice			
Date of Alleged Malpractice:		Time of Alleged Malpractice:	
Description of Alleged Malpractice (Specify the assessment procedure/rule that has allegedly been breached. Include details of mitigating factors, if any):			
Number of Learners Impacted (if any)			
Nature of Impact on Learners			
Certification Status at time of Allegation Notification (tick as appropriate)			
Certificates not requested and will not be progressed until process is concluded			
Certificates have been issued and are to be retrieved and held pending outcome of process			
Certificates have not been issued and will be held until the process is concluded			
Certification will not be impacted			

Notification of Malpractice Allegation			
Name of relevant Centre Manager:			
Notified by (name):			
Date of Notification:			
Learner to be investigated notified in writing	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	Date:	
Name(s) of Investigator(s):		Contact Number:	
		Email Address:	
Comment:			

SECTION 2: INVESTIGATION REPORT

If this section is not applicable, please tick

Case Ref: _____

Investigation	
Name(s)/ Learner No's of person(s) spoken to/met:	
Documents reviewed:	
Evidence reviewed:	
Investigation Findings	
Investigation Findings:	
Supporting Documents/ Evidence/Testimony:	
Allegation substantiated:	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Investigation Report submitted to relevant Centre Manager:	Date:
Signed (Investigator):	Date:
Print Name:	

SECTION 3: FINDINGS ADJUDICATION AND COMMUNICATION OF FINDINGS

If this section is not applicable, please tick

Case Ref: _____

Findings Adjudication by Centre Manager			
Malpractice Allegation Findings	Substantiated <input type="checkbox"/>	Not Substantiated <input type="checkbox"/>	
Comment:			
Signed (Centre Manager):		Date:	

Communication of Adjudicated Findings				
Adjudicated Findings	Communicated to: (as relevant)	Please tick	Date	Informed by
	Investigated Learner	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	Relevant Manager	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>		

SECTION 4: SANCTIONS FOR ASSESSMENT SYSTEM MALPRACTICE (LEARNER ONLY)

If this section is not applicable, please tick

Case Ref: _____

Sanction		
The sanction(s) recommended:		
Approved: Signed (Relevant Centre Manager):		Date:

Communication of the Sanction				
Sanction being imposed:	Communicated to: (as relevant)	Please tick	Date:	Informed by:
	Relevant Learner(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	Relevant Manager	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Other party informed (specify):				

APPENDIX 2: Declaration regarding Conflict of Interest

Declaration regarding Conflict of Interest

for Persons involved in the Investigation of an Alleged Malpractice with the CMETB Centre Assessment System

Conflict of interest means any issue that might unfairly influence, or appear to influence, the outcome of an investigation. A conflict of interest for a person investigating an alleged malpractice with CMETB Centre assessment system shall be deemed to exist if the personnel:

- *Were engaged in any aspect of the assessment process (including quality assurance functions)*
- *Have a personal relationship or family relationship with the party being investigated*
- *Are perceived to have a professional relationship with the party being investigated that may unfairly influence the investigation process*

Where a conflict of interest exists, there can be no involvement in the investigation of the alleged malpractice, or the decision-making surrounding the outcome of the alleged malpractice.

Centre:	
----------------	--

This is to certify that, as far as I am aware, no conflict of interest exists in relation to my participation in the investigation of the above-mentioned Alleged Assessment System Malpractice.

Name (Block Capitals):	
Signature:	
Position:	
Date:	

Case Ref: _____

APPENDIX 3: Notification of Investigation Letter Template

NAME

COMPANY NAME (if applicable)

ADDRESS 1

ADDRESS 2

ADDRESS 3

Reference Number:

Date: <dd/mm/yy>

Subject: Alleged Assessment System Malpractice

Dear Mr/Ms < Name>,

I wish to inform you that it has come to our attention that an assessment system malpractice may have occurred relating to: *(delete as appropriate)*

<Assessment Title> held at <Location> on <date>.

<Assessment Event> held at <Location> on <date>.

<other - specify what the alleged malpractice relates to, when and where it is alleged to have occurred if known>

The < Centre Name> intends to conduct an investigation into the alleged malpractice in accordance with CMETB *Assessment Malpractice Procedures* (copy attached). You will be contacted by the Investigator appointed to investigate the alleged assessment malpractice in due course.

I wish to assure you that the investigation will be carried out in a discreet and confidential manner, and will have due regard to the principles of natural justice for all parties concerned.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me. Please quote the reference number above in all your correspondence with the < Centre Name> in this regard.

Yours sincerely

<Name>

Manager

APPENDIX 4: Notification of Assessment System Malpractice Finding Letter Template

NAME

ADDRESS 1

ADDRESS 2

ADDRESS 3

Reference Number:

Date: <dd/mm/yy>

Subject: Finding of the Alleged Malpractice Investigation

Dear Mr/Ms < Name>,

I am writing to tell you about the finding of our investigation into the malpractice allegation. We have <upheld / not upheld > (delete as appropriate) the allegation.

(In the case of an allegation that has been upheld)

<If you want to appeal this finding, you must complete the attached application form and return it to me within ten (10) working days excluding holiday periods from the date of this letter.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me. Please **keep this letter** as you will need the above reference number to complete the appeal form (if you are taking one) and when you contact us on this matter.

Yours sincerely

<Name>

Manager

APPENDIX 5: Appeals of Assessment System Malpractice Application Form

Instructions

Please complete **all** parts of this form in BLOCK letters. Send it to the relevant Centre Manager who wrote to tell you about the assessment system malpractice finding. Please do this within a **defined** timeframe **Ten (10) working days excluding holiday periods** from the date of their letter.

Nature of Appeal:	Appeal on Findings <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal on Sanctions <input type="checkbox"/> (please tick one box)
Name:	
Address:	
Reference Number (you will find this on your letter):	
Contact number:	
Email address:	

Reason for your appeal (please tick one box only)	
Malpractice was not dealt with in line with the Centre procedures	<input type="checkbox"/>
Regulations did not adequately cover the circumstances around the malpractice	<input type="checkbox"/>
New information is now available that was not available to the investigation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please explain your reason for this appeal application:	
Print Name:	
Signature:	Date:

Part B: (Office Use) This section must be completed by the relevant ETB Manager

Name:	
Receipt date of application:	
Application:	I can confirm that a review of the Application has been completed and that the Appeal is Granted <input type="checkbox"/> Declined <input type="checkbox"/>
Reason:	
Signature:	
Date:	