Contract Cheating + the law
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The use of ghostwriting services for contract cheating

• Questions about a legal approach
  – What would success look like?
  – Which behaviours should be targeted?
  – How would it be enforced?
  – Unintended consequences?
A legal approach?

**Against**
- Whose law is it?
- What is the crime?
- Who is the victim?
- Hard to detect
- Prevention
- ‘for reference only’
- Alcohol

**For**
- Deterrent
- What is the crime?
- Shifts context
- Just one tool
- Guns
- It should be illegal
Lessons learned

So far
Struggling to write your essay or dissertation?

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Is it legal?

Yes, in most countries (New Zealand an exception)
“the nearest applicable legislation is the Fraud Act 2006”
Are Essay Mills committing fraud? An analysis of their behaviours vs the 2006 Fraud Act (UK)

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Abstract

Many strategies have been proposed to address the use of Essay Mills and other ‘contract cheating’ services by students. These services generally offer bespoke custom-written essays or other assignments to students in exchange for a fee. There have been calls for the use of legal approaches to tackle the problem. Here we determine whether the UK
Lord Storey of Liverpool
Higher Education and Research Bill 2016-17

Type of Bill: Government Bill
Sponsors: Justine Greening
Department for Education
Viscount Younger of Leckie

Progress of the Bill

Bill started in the House of Commons

House of Commons
1 2 C R 3

House of Lords
1 2 C R 3

Royal Assent

Consideration of amendments
An offence to.....

Complete an assignment  
Arranging for...↑

Giving exam answers

Sitting an exam

....for a student...
• A person commits an offence if the person provides any service specified……. with the intention of giving a student ......an unfair advantage over other students
• A person commits an offence if the person provides any service specified ...... with the **intention** of giving a student ...... an unfair advantage over other students.
Strict Liability

• A person commits an offence if the person provides any service specified......
  giving a student ......an unfair advantage over other students

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