‘Turn Off Turnitin’ Policy

The Highlands & Islands Students’ Association shall…

- Lobby UHI to end their contract with Turnitin UK Ltd due to the lack of trust since the proposed End User Licence Agreement (EULA).
- Lobby UHI to ensure that student submissions, including but not limited to essays, are not used to develop generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) or large language models (LLMs).
- Lobby nationally against student work being used to develop generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) or large language models (LLMs).

Start Date: 03/11/2026 **End Date:** 02/11/2028

Motion Title: Turn Off Turnitin

Proposer: Andi Garrity

The Situation

UHI are partnered with Turnitin UK Ltd for student submissions. Turnitin UK Ltd were prepared to launch an update to their End User License Agreement (EULA) on July 14th, 2026. The update included new terms around the processing of student submissions with artificial intelligence tools.

105 Elected Student Leaders, including six HISA Officers, across the UK signed a letter opposing the changes and encouraged them to consult elected officers for the reasons listed in the importance section on September 25th, 2026.

On September 29th, 2026, Turnitin UK Ltd released a statement postponing the issue of the new End User Licence Agreement (EULA) until September 2027 and agreed to work with UCISA. This statement says that Turnitin UK Ltd has no plans to use student essays to develop any generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) models or large language models (LLMs) in this way but does not mention wider student submissions.

So far three universities have agreed to end their contract with Turnitin UK Ltd by the end of academic year 2026-27. A further five universities are reviewing whether they wish to renew their contract for academic year 2027-28.

The Solution

- UHI to use an alternative plagiarism tool than Turnitin UK Ltd.
- UHI ensure student submissions remain their own intellectual property that cannot be used to train or develop any generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) models or large language models (LLMs) without explicit and informed consent.

The Importance

Students' work should remain their own work!

Student submissions being used to develop any generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) models or large language models (LLMs) calls into question how academic integrity can be maintained in an automised environment in which students have little control. For a tertiary academic provider, such as UHI, education needs critical thinking, intellectual ownership, & original thought and the proposed agreement severely undermined that.

There are also significant concerns around the environmental impacts of expanding GenAI technologies as well as concerns around academic integrity.

The Action

- Lobby UHI to end their contract with Turnitin UK Ltd due to the lack of trust since the proposed End User Licence Agreement (EULA).
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- Lobby nationally against student work being used to develop generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) or large language models (LLMs).