

This letter has been sent on behalf of the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) about concerns at the Yunnik Technologies Ltd test centre in Ibadan, Nigeria.

## **General employer communication**

Dear colleague,

You may have received an email update in May relating to our international registration process where we explained that we needed to look in more detail [at concerns raised with us](#) about potentially fraudulent activity at the Yunnik Technologies Ltd test centre in Ibadan, Nigeria. We are now in a position to update you on our regulatory approach to the concerns raised.

A brief word of explanation if you are not familiar with our process. When internationally educated nursing and midwifery professionals apply to join the UK NMC register to practise here, as part of the registration process we require them to pass a two-part [Test of Competence](#). The first is a [computer-based test \(CBT\)](#) assessing their clinical and numeracy skills and the second, an [objective structured clinical examination \(OSCE\)](#) which focuses on practical clinical skills. The test carried out at the Yunnik Technologies Ltd test centre in Ibadan, Nigeria was the CBT.

We have completed our initial investigation. While the majority of the individuals are not considered to have acted fraudulently, there is evidence of fraud at the Yunnik site that is widespread enough to mean we cannot be confident in any of the CBTs taken there. **Therefore we consider all CBTs obtained at Yunnik to be invalid.**

### **Steps we took to investigate**

Firstly, we asked our test provider, Pearson VUE, to provide us with assurance that the data from Yunnik is accurate. Pearson VUE confirmed they're satisfied that there's no evidence of system error, cyber-attack or other technical error, and that the data is indicative of one or more 'proxy testers' operating at Yunnik.

We then asked an independent data analytics expert to provide an objective analysis of the data provided by Pearson VUE. The expert looked at the times CBT candidates took to achieve their pass, compared with times from other test centres in Nigeria and globally. This analysis clearly indicates that the overall pattern of test-taking at Yunnik is statistically significantly quicker.

### **What we've concluded**

The overall picture at the Yunnik centre was one of widespread fraudulent activity. This means we cannot have confidence in any CBT result from this test centre and we're treating them as invalid.

It's essential for the NMC to maintain the safety and integrity of the register, and the public's trust and confidence in the professions we regulate. This means we need to assure ourselves that anyone on our register, or applying to join it, meets our proficiency standards. A valid CBT result is one way in which an internationally educated professional can demonstrate they meet these standards.

### **How does this affect professionals on the register?**

There are 515 professionals on the register who took their CBT at the Yunnik test centre. Of that 515, we will progress 48 individuals through our fraudulent entry process (see below). The remaining 467 professionals will need to sit and pass a new CBT, provided they do this we will close their case and take no further action.

### **Fraudulent entry cases**

We consider that a small number of registrants obtained their CBT result fraudulently and have opened fraudulent entry cases against them. Based on the current evidence we don't have any clinical concerns about these individuals and they can continue to work as a registered professional in the UK while the investigation is ongoing.

We will refer each of these cases to an independent panel to decide whether the individuals gained fraudulent entry to the register. Those individuals will be able to give the panel any further information about the circumstances in which they took the CBT at Yunnik, including any mitigating circumstances or character references. They'll have the chance to attend a hearing before the panel makes a decision.

If the panel decides that a register entry was fraudulently obtained, one option the panel has is to direct us to remove that entry from the register. An individual would have a right of appeal against this decision.

We have written to the employers of registrants we consider obtained their CBT result fraudulently. If you haven't received a letter from us, this means you don't employ a registrant who we are considering under our fraudulent entry process.

### **Remaining invalid CBT results**

Based on the evidence at this stage, we are not proceeding with allegations of fraud for the remaining professionals on the register who took their CBT at Yunnik.

However, because we're now treating CBTs from Yunnik as invalid, they will need to resit the test successfully to remain on our register.

This will also enable them to evidence to any employer that they hold a CBT result about which there can be no doubt. We do not have any clinical concerns about these professionals and don't have any concerns about their honesty and integrity based on the current evidence available.

## **How are those still at the application stage impacted?**

There are 1,440 people applying to the register who took their CBT at the Yunnik centre. All applicants will need to pass a new CBT to complete their application to join the register.

However, we consider that some of these applicants have obtained their original CBT result fraudulently. Therefore when they pass a new CBT and submit their application, their application will be considered by an Assistant Registrar.

Those individuals will have the opportunity to provide the Assistant Registrar with any written information about the circumstances in which they took their CBT at Yunnik, plus any mitigating factors, character references or other information they wish to give.

## **And the remaining applicants?**

Based on the evidence at this stage we are not proceeding with allegations of fraud for the remaining applicants. Providing that they pass a new CBT, their application can continue in the normal way towards registration.

## **What if people don't take or pass a retest?**

We have written to all those professionals and applicants affected, explaining our findings and the specific nature of our concerns, and what this means for them. Within this we have provided information about booking a new CBT free of charge.

If somebody on the register declines to retake the CBT, or fails three retake attempts, they'll move into our incorrect entry process and an independent panel will decide whether they can remain on the register.

If an applicant does not retake or fails three resits, then they will not be able to join the register. We expect employers to support individuals to retake their retest.

## **What this means for you as an employer**

It is important to state although our initial investigation indicates evidence of widespread fraud at the Yunnik test centre, we have not made any final decisions about individual applications to the register or entry to the register. We have a process we need to follow to make a final decision.

This means at this stage, **you don't need to take any action** other than your role and responsibility to support any of your affected staff with the time needed for up to three CBT resits.

As always, I know you will be thinking of the potential for unfair and discriminatory behaviour towards individuals affected by this, as well as other internationally educated or ethnically diverse colleagues. Please be proactive and take any further steps you can to eradicate any unfair, racist or discriminatory behaviour from your workplaces. Each individual must continue to be treated with the dignity they have a right to expect.

## **Engagement with you as an employer**

In our communication to all registrants and applicants who took their CBT at the Yunnik centre, we have made it clear that they should engage with you as their employer or sponsor and provide you with a copy of their letter, so you can fully understand their situation and support them.

If you are employing a **registrant** who took their CBT at the Yunnik centre, you would have received a letter from us in June about the individual. If you haven't received a subsequent letter from us regarding an individual registrant, this means we don't consider that they obtained their CBT fraudulently. The only step they will need to take is to pass a new CBT to stay on the register.

## **Further support and resources**

We understand that this is a complex regulatory issue and that you may have a lot of questions about this. To support you as an employer we have published dedicated employer webpages with information about our approach and employer FAQs.

If you feel any questions remain unanswered, we have published some dedicated employer webpage with some detailed FAQs on our [website](#).