

**FOI 23-051 Confucius Institute**

1 message

Foi <foi@abdn.ac.uk>

9 March 2023 at 11:59

To: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Your request has now been considered under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, 'the Act'. Please find your response below.

First, I should provide some context. I am in possession of the majority of the legal documentation governing the UK's 30 Confucius Institutes, that is, agreements between the relevant British universities and Chinese entities.

One common theme in these agreements is a clause seeming to demand that staff from the People's Republic of China (PRC) who work at the Confucius Institutes in the UK should 'follow Chinese law' whilst on British soil, or that the Institute's activities (as carried out by staff) should not contravene Chinese law.

Recently, some students at Newcastle University sent an FOI request to their university asking whether staff from the PRC have indeed to follow Chinese law on campus. Newcastle's response was to state unequivocally that "Chinese staff in the UK must still abide by Chinese law as well as UK law."

My FOI request is as follows:

**Do the staff from the PRC at the University's Confucius Institute have to abide by Chinese law on campus?
Has the University entered into agreements that demand as much?**

We do not have information regarding a requirement that Staff from the PCR at the University's Confucius Institute have to abide by Chinese law on campus within our agreement.

Should you be dissatisfied with this response, you have the right under the Act to request a review. A request for review must be made within 40 working days of the date of this reply. It must include your name and address for correspondence and specify the request for information and the grounds for dissatisfaction with the decision. Please send your request for review to our mailbox, foi@abdn.ac.uk. The University will respond to your request for a review within 20 working days of receipt of your request.

If you are unhappy with the outcome of the University's internal review, you have the right to appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months of the date of receipt of the University's review notice. Details on how to make an appeal to the Commissioner are available at www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal. Should you remain dissatisfied with the Commissioner's decision, you have a right of appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Information Governance [REDACTED]

University of Aberdeen

www.abdn.ac.uk

4th in the UK for Overall Student Satisfaction (NSS 2022)

13th in the UK (The Guardian University Guide 2023)

World Top 160 (Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2022)

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