

**RE: EXTERNAL: FOI request**

1 message

Freedom of Information requests <foia@coventry.ac.uk>

27 March 2023 at 11:30

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Freedom of Information requests <foia@coventry.ac.uk>

Dear [REDACTED]

REF: FOIA1986

Please find below responses in red to the Freedom of Information request you made to Coventry University in respect of university's Confucius Institute.

Your Request and Response

- 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?
 - **Article 2.5 of the Agreement for the Establishment of the Confucius Institute states the following: "The Institute activities must be in accordance with the Constitution and By-laws, and also respect cultural custom, shall not contravene concerning the laws and regulations, both in UK and China."**

If you have any queries or concerns regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me via foia@coventry.ac.uk. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to request an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months from the date of receipt of the response to your original request and should be addressed to: the Information Governance Unit, Coventry University, Portal House, 163 Union Street, Coventry, CV1 2PL or sent by e-mail to: foia@coventry.ac.uk.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the internal review procedure provided by the University. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF, Telephone: 08456 30 60 60 or 01625 54 57 45, Email: enquiries@ico.gsi.gov.uk

Best Wishes,

Information Governance Unit | Resolution, Information and Legal Services

Coventry University, Portal House, Floor 3, 163 New Union Street, Coventry, CV1 2PL

E: Amrit.Jhita@coventry.ac.uk | W: www.Coventry.ac.uk

Please see Information Governance Unit (IGU) site for more information [here](#).
Report a data breach [here](#).



PROUD TO BE A
PRINCIPAL
PARTNER



From: Freedom of Information requests <foia@coventry.ac.uk>
Sent: 08 February 2023 14:18
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Freedom of Information requests <foia@coventry.ac.uk>
Subject: RE: EXTERNAL: FOI request

Dear [REDACTED]

REF: FOIA1986

Thank you for your email, which was received by Coventry University on 8th February 2023. Your request has been assigned the above reference number. Please quote the above reference number in all future correspondence relating to this request.

Your request will be handled under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please be advised that you can expect to receive a response from the University by no later than 8th March 2023 being within the statutory deadline for response of 20 working days.

Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me via foia@coventry.ac.uk.

Best Wishes,

[REDACTED]
Information Governance Unit | Resolution, Information and Legal Services

Coventry University, Portal House, Floor 3, 163 New Union Street, Coventry, CV1 2PL

E: Amrit.Jhita@coventry.ac.uk | **W:** www.Coventry.ac.uk

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Report a data breach [here](#).



PROUD TO BE A
PRINCIPAL
PARTNER



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 08 February 2023 12:34
To: Freedom of Information requests <foia@coventry.ac.uk>
Subject: EXTERNAL: FOI request

This email originated from outside of Coventry University. Do not click on any links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know that the content is safe.

Caution: Think Before You Click

Dear sir/madam,

My name is [REDACTED] and I would like to make an FOI request about the university's Confucius Institute.

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?

Thank you and best wishes,

[REDACTED]

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Queen's Award for Enterprise
International Trade 2022

Ranked in the top 50% of UK universities for research power
Times Higher Education analysis of REF 2021

Joint top Modern University for Career Prospects

Guardian University Guide 2022

Top 30 in the World for International Students (ratio)

QS World University Rankings 2022

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Any views or opinions expressed within this e-mail are those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of Coventry University.