

Fwd: FOI request (Our ref F038-23)

From [REDACTED]
To [REDACTED]
Date Wednesday, April 19th, 2023 at 22:33

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Freedom of Information** <FOI@hw.ac.uk>
Date: Mon, 13 Mar 2023 at 15:17
Subject: Re: FOI request (Our ref F038-23)
To: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your recent information request regarding the University's Sottish Confucius Institute for Business and Communication (SCIBC). Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA).

You asked If the staff from the Peoples Republic of China at the SCIBS have to abide by Chinese law on campus? Also, does the SCIBC have to obey Chinese law in its activities? Has the University entered into agreements that demand as much?

Article 1 of the Agreement between Tianjin University of Finance & Economics (TUFÉ) and Heriot-Watt University dated December 2020 references the nature and scope of the SCIBC activities which is to operate according to the laws and regulations of Scotland and the UK.

All staff recruited from China by the SCIBC are seconded staff authorised via Tier 5 Certificates of Sponsorship.

As secondees, these staff are inducted via relevant training and are expected to uphold and abide by the University's formal Values and Strategy. You can view further information regarding our Values and Strategy here:

<https://strategy2025.hw.ac.uk/>

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They therefore have access to services to facilitate the use of essential IT systems which allows them to perform their learning and teaching duties such as email, file storage, the virtual learning environment, printers and the library. They are treated in a similar way to visiting scholars and are managed in accordance with relevant [HR policies](#). For information we have attached a copy of our Visiting Scholar Guidelines which are available within the [Learning and Teaching policies](#) page on our website.

We hope you will find this information helpful.

Your right to seek review of our decision

If you are not satisfied with our response or our reasoning set-out above, you have forty working days from today in which to request a review of our decision. Any request should be put in writing and should be sent to Ann Jones, Head of Information Governance, at the address detailed at the bottom of this email. The request should:

- (a) detail your request for a review of our decision to be undertaken;
- (b) describe the nature of your original request; and
- (c) explain the reasons why you are dissatisfied with our response.

If you remain dissatisfied with how your request for information has been dealt with, you also have the right to apply to the Scottish Information Commissioner for a decision as to whether we have handled your request properly.

Information relating to your right to seek review is available from the [Scottish Information Commissioner's web page](#) or by contacting the Scottish Information Commissioner's Office at the following address:

Scottish Information Commissioner,
Kinburn Castle,
Doubledykes Road, St Andrews,
Fife KY16 9DS

Telephone: 01334 464610

Fax: 01334 464611

E-mail: enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info

Website: <http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/home/ScottishInformationCommissioner.asp>

Contact us

Finally, should you wish to discuss the contents of this email, please do not hesitate to contact us via foi@hw.ac.uk

FOISA Team
Information Governance Division
Heriot-Watt University
Edinburgh EH14 4AS



From: Freedom of Information <FOI@hw.ac.uk>

Sent: 22 February 2023 10:52

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: FOI request (Our ref F038-23)

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email dated the 13th of February 2023 providing further details in relation to your freedom of information request. We aim to reply within 20 working days, and no later than the 13th of March 2023.

Kind regards

FOISA Team
Heriot-Watt University
Governance and Legal Services
Edinburgh
EH14 4AS



From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 13 February 2023 15:49

To: Freedom of Information <FOI@hw.ac.uk>

Subject: Re: FOI request

Caution: This email originated from a sender outside Heriot-Watt University.

Do not follow links or open attachments if you doubt the authenticity of the sender or the content.

Dear team,

My mistake. I have requested the same information from a few universities with CIs and did not share the intended message with you. Thanks for alerting me to this. The request is as follows:

<<

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? Does the CI have to obey Chinese law in its activities? Has the University entered into agreements that demand as much?

>>

Thank you and best wishes,

[REDACTED]

On Mon, 13 Feb 2023 at 15:14, Freedom of Information <FOI@hw.ac.uk> wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

We received the undernoted email on the 8th of February however there is no request attached. Please could you advise us as to what information you require.

Many thanks

FOISA Team
Heriot-Watt University
Governance and Legal Services
Edinburgh

EH14 4AS



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 08 February 2023 12:33
To: Freedom of Information <FOI@hw.ac.uk>
Subject: FOI request

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