



Re: FOI request (Our ref F015-23)

1 message

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

1 March 2023 at 17:12

To: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your recent information request regarding the Scottish Confucius Institute for Business and Communication (SCIBC). Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA). We apologise for the delay in our reply.

Please see our responses in red below, detailed beneath the original questions you raised.

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: [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 January 2023 11:07
To: Freedom of Information <FOI@hw.ac.uk>
Subject: FOI request

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

Dear sir/madam,

My name is [REDACTED]. This FOI request relates to the university's Confucius Institute, in particular to the roles at the Confucius Institute for which individuals are recruited in China (if I understand correctly, that is the Chinese language teachers, and the 'Chinese co-director').

- Are these university roles? Are the rights and privileges of university staff attached to these roles? Are those who occupy these roles staff of the university? Are these individuals employed by the university? *Please share any documentation that answers these questions or otherwise defines the legal status of these roles and those who occupy them.*

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

All secondees 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/>

- Please state whether the university has received legal advice about the legal status of these roles and those who occupy them.

As above, all visas are issued in London and applications are via the Chinese International Education Foundation (the successor body to Hanban).

Best,

[REDACTED]

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