

**FOI request**

3 messages

To: foι@leeds.ac.uk

8 February 2023 at 12:31

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,

Freedom of Information <foι@leeds.ac.uk>

10 February 2023 at 15:27

To: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information request reference L/23/054

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FOI) request.

The University of Leeds aims to respond to all FOI requests within 20-working days of receipt. If this timeframe changes, I will write to provide you with an update.

The information you have requested may already be published on our website. The following links may be of use to you:

- [Publication scheme](#) – a range of information about the University, including our annual reports and accounts, and information about our staff and structure
- [FOI disclosure log](#) – copies of previous FOI responses, updated several times per year

If you have any questions about your request, please contact us at foi@leeds.ac.uk

Regards

Freedom of Information Officer

[Quoted text hidden]

Freedom of Information <foi@leeds.ac.uk>

20 February 2023 at 16:06

To: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information Response (Our Ref: L/23/054)

Thank you for your Freedom of Information ('FOI') request, reference L/23/054.

Your request read:

"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?"

The University of Leeds holds this information.

Our agreements states:

“The Business Confucius Institute, which is a subordinate body of The University of Leeds, shall operate according to the laws and regulations of the UK and local needs....”

Therefore we do not require PRC staff at the University’s Confucius Institute to abide by Chinese law on campus. And the University has not entered into agreements that demand that staff need to abide by Chinese law.

We hope this information is helpful. If you have any questions about this email, however, please do not hesitate to contact us on foi@leeds.ac.uk

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request, you can request an internal review. Requests for internal review should be made in writing using the following contact information:

Email: foi@leeds.ac.uk

Requests for internal review should be submitted within 40 working days of receiving the University’s response to your request. Further information about how the University manages FOI requests and about our complaints procedure is available on our website (www.leeds.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 Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the review/complaints procedure provided by the University. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner’s Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Sincerely

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted signature]

University of Leeds