



**Information Compliance and Security Team**

B16 Lenton Hurst  
University of Nottingham  
University Park  
Nottingham  
NG7 2RD

8 February 2023

Reference: 1609089

Dear [REDACTED]

**Freedom of Information Act 2000**

I can confirm that the information requested is held by University of Nottingham. I have detailed below the information that is being released to you.

You requested-

This FOI (Freedom of Information) 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.

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

The Co-Director and Chinese language teachers are seconded to the Nottingham Confucius Institute from China and have associate staff member status to enable access to relevant University premises and resources to support their teaching. Prospective candidates are interviewed by the University to confirm their language capability and to ensure alignment with the University's values, policies, and procedures.

The seconded staff from China come on a Tier 5 Certificate of Sponsorship and satisfy the legal requirements. We are unable to share the documentation you have requested as this is part of the individual staff members employee files, which is defined as personal data in accordance with Section 40 (2) of the FOIA 2000.

FOIA section 40(2) states that personal data which is not the personal data of the requester (ie third-party personal data) should not be disclosed if this would contravene the data protection principles, and our Employees have a reasonable expectation that their personal data will not be disclosed.



However, details on who occupies these positions is exempt under Section 21 of the FOIA as this is information we publish, and is available at <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/confucius/people/index.aspx>

Please quote the reference number 1609089 in any future communications.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within 40 working days of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Please contact [info-requests@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:info-requests@nottingham.ac.uk) to request an internal review.

If you are still dissatisfied with the University's response after the internal review you have a right of appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire SK9 5AF.  
Telephone: 0330 123 1113  
Email: [casework@ico.org.uk](mailto:casework@ico.org.uk)

I will now close your request as of this date.

Yours faithfully

[Redacted signature block]