

## Fwd: FOI request

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From [REDACTED]  
To [REDACTED]  
Date Wednesday, April 19th, 2023 at 16:21

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

From: **Freedom Of Information** <[foi@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:foi@sheffield.ac.uk)>  
Date: Fri, 24 Feb 2023 at 15:51  
Subject: Re: FOI request  
To: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for information from the University of Sheffield.

Your request was for:

*"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 does not hold the information requested.

If you are not satisfied with the University's response to your FOI request, please see details of our internal review process [here](#), including details of how to contact the Information Commissioner's Office for an independent review.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

University Secretary's Office  
The University of Sheffield  
First Floor  
Arts Tower  
12 Bolsover Street  
Sheffield  
S3 7NA

Web: <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/uso>

On Wed, 8 Feb 2023 at 12:29, [REDACTED] wrote:

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]