

[REDACTED]

21 February 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

**G01696: Freedom of Information Request**

We refer to your request for information dated 23/01/2023 under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the "Act").

Please find below your question, with the University's corresponding response.

**Question**

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.

\*

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

Best,

[REDACTED]

## Answer

In accordance with [Section 1\(1\)\(a\)](#) of the Act, we confirm that the University holds the information of the description specified in your request.

All staff seconded to our Confucius Institute from China have access to services **only** so that they can use email, one-drive, printers and the library. All staff from China come on Tier 5 Certificate of Sponsorship; they are **not** employed University of Southampton staff.

All staff seconded to our Confucius Institute roles are granted visas through the UK Government's China-UK Mandarin Teachers Scheme. Details on this can be found on the following UK Government web pages:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-government-authorised-exchange-schemes>

The University did not seek legal advice about the legal status of these roles and those who occupy them.

If you do not feel that we have dealt with your request in accordance with the requirements of [Part I](#) of the Act, you may request a review. Your request for a review must specify in what respect you consider that the requirements of [Part I](#) of the Act have not been met; mere dissatisfaction with our response is insufficient. Please address your request for a review by completing the [form](#) and selecting Fol Review.

In accordance with section 5.3 of the [Code of Practice](#), a request for a review must be sent within 40 working days of the date of this letter. The University is not obliged to accept any requests for a review beyond 40 working days. We will acknowledge your request for a review and endeavour to respond within 20 working days of its receipt but please note that a deadline for a review response is not prescribed by the Act.

The Information Commissioner is responsible for enforcing rights of access to information and the operation of the publication scheme. You may apply to the Information Commissioner in writing (FOI/EIR Complaints Resolution, Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF) or [electronically](#) for a decision whether, in any specified respect, your request for information has been dealt with by the University in accordance with the requirements of [Part I](#) of the Act. The Information Commissioner will not normally act unless they are satisfied that the University's review procedure has been exhausted.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'foi', is positioned at the bottom left of the page.