



University of  
**Strathclyde**  
**Glasgow**

20 February 2023

Our ref: FOI 2023/021

Dear [REDACTED],

**Request for Information under Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002**

Thank you for your email which was received by the University on 23 January 2023 requesting the following information:

**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.**

**University's response**

**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.***

The Chinese Exchange Teachers are school-teachers from Tianjin City or postgraduate students of our partner universities in Tianjin or Chengdu. They are not University roles and are not employed by the University. All of these individuals are based and working in schools of different local authorities, not in the University.

The Chinese Director of the University's Confucius Institute for Scotland is employed by the University on a two year fixed-term contract, ending on 30 September 2024.

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

The University has internal advisors in Human Resources who advise in this regard.

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#### **Freedom of Information Review Procedure:**

If you are unhappy with the University's response, please contact the Information Governance Unit by post or email to request a review of our actions.

***The best way to contact the Information Governance Unit is by email. There may be significant delays if you choose to correspond by post.***

Information Governance Unit  
University of Strathclyde  
Room 2.74  
McCance Building  
16 Richmond Street  
Glasgow G1 1XQ

E-mail: [foi@strath.ac.uk](mailto:foi@strath.ac.uk)

The University will then undertake an internal review and inform you of the result of that review.

All such requests for review should be made in writing, setting out in full the nature of the enquiry to which it pertains, and stating why you are dissatisfied with the response. A request for review should be submitted within 40 working days of either the date on which you received a response from the University or the date by which you should have received a response under the terms of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, whichever is the later.

Please note that links provided to information available elsewhere are intended to assist Freedom of Information access. Requests for information held by other public authorities and any complaints regarding access to such information should be addressed to that authority. These review procedures relate only to information which is directly under the control of the University of Strathclyde.

If the University is unable to resolve any complaint, you can contact the Scottish Information Commissioner, the independent body which oversees the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. A complaint to the Commissioner must be made within 6 months from the date of the University's response.

The Commissioner has an online appeal service which can be accessed via [www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal).

Alternatively, you can contact the Scottish Information Commissioner via the following methods:

Scottish Information Commissioner  
Kinburn Castle  
Doubledykes Road  
St Andrews  
Fife  
KY16 9DS

Tel: 01334 464610  
Website: [www.itspublicknowledge.info](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info)  
E-mail: [enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info)

Yours sincerely,

Information Governance Unit  
University of Strathclyde