



Sam Dunning &lt;info@ukctransparency.org&gt;

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**Yike Guo**

13 messages

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**Sam Dunning** <director@ukctransparency.org>

23 January 2024 at 11:33

To: [REDACTED]

Hi [REDACTED]

My name is Sam Dunning and I'm the director of UK-China Transparency. I have noticed that Professor Yike Guo, former head of the Data Science Institute, no longer appears on the Institute's website. Has he been removed from his post, or stepped down? When did this occur?

I am making this inquiry as part of an effort to learn more about the DSI's and Guo's connections to marine combat drone research in China. For context, I believe Imperial's FOI team is currently conducting an internal review on one of my requests relating to this. But I'm sure your team is better placed to answer my straightforward question about Guo's apparent non-involvement in DSI.

Best,

Sam

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**Sam Dunning** <director@ukctransparency.org>

5 February 2024 at 10:08

To: [REDACTED]

Hi [REDACTED]

Please let me know.

Sam

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**Sam Dunning** <director@ukctransparency.org>

6 February 2024 at 15:37

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Hi there guys,

I tried calling your office today but no response. I'm really hoping that you can respond to this basic question in the next week or so.

Best,

Sam

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**Sam Dunning** <director@ukctransparency.org>

12 February 2024 at 14:33

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Hi,

Can one of the media team please respond or call me back on +44 7944 073 796? This is my fourth email and the second time I have tried various numbers, including your on-call mobile 07803 886248.

Sam

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**Sam Dunning** <director@ukctransparency.org>

15 February 2024 at 15:27

To: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Hi there [REDACTED]

I just spoke to you on the phone.

Please see my previous inquiries below.

Has Professor Guo been removed from his role at the DSI?

If so, then why?

Has Professor Guo's association with Imperial ended?

If so, when and why?

Sam

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20 February 2024 at 17:52

To: "director@ukctransparency.org" <director@ukctransparency.org>

Dear Sam,

Thanks for your email and apologies for the delay in getting back to you.

Professor Guo left Imperial College London in 2022 to take up the role of Provost at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST). He no longer has an association with Imperial.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] - Media and Social Media

Imperial College London

+44 (0)20 7594 8432 [REDACTED]

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**Sam Dunning** <director@ukctransparency.org>

22 February 2024 at 13:47

To: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your response. However, I am not satisfied with it. I helped work on the Channel 4 Dispatches documentary, which featured investigation of Guo and DSI. I understand that the claim you are now making - that Guo "left Imperial College London in 2022" - was never communicated to the team working on Dispatches. This seems rather odd. Rather, Imperial replied to inquiries about Guo and his work with reference to staff codes of practice, somewhat implying Guo was still associated with Imperial/DSI.

Moreover, as I have made clear, Guo was listed as the director of DSI until after the documentary aired late last year (2023). His biography also appeared on Imperial's website until recently. And Guo seemingly continues to refer to his affiliation with DSI on his publications (as of late last year - see [https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=-0q6cIYAAAAJ&view\\_op=list\\_works&sortby=pubdate](https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=-0q6cIYAAAAJ&view_op=list_works&sortby=pubdate))

Of course, Guo was associated with Shanghai University whilst at Imperial - and it is perfectly possible for a scholar to have more than one affiliation. So becoming Provost at HKUST does not exclude a continuing role at DSI/Imperial.

***When did Guo cease to work in any capacity as director or co-director of the Data Science Institute? When did his role at DSI formally end?***

***When did Guo lose his staff privileges at Imperial?***

These are really very simple questions that should not in any way be sensitive.

Best,

Sam

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Sam Dunning <director@ukctransparency.org>

18 March 2024 at 13:31

To: [REDACTED]

Hi there all,

I am really dismayed at the contempt with which you appear to be treating my inquiries.

UK-China Transparency is currently drawing up research about Guo, Huang Ping, and the collapsed collaboration with JARI. I will be emailing you shortly with further points to which we would like to receive a response. In the mean time, it'd be great to get some clarity about Professor Guo's position.

Best,

Sam

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To: Sam Dunning <director@ukctransparency.org>

25 March 2024 at 15:12

Dear Sam,

Thanks for your email.

Re your questions below, the information that you are requesting is personal data relating to an individual's contract, which we are not able to disclose.

If any individual does not have an association with Imperial this means they do not have staff privileges.

As previously stated Professor Guo left Imperial College London - including his role at the DSI - in 2022 to take up the role of Provost at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST).

He no longer has an association with Imperial.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Sam Dunning <[director@ukctransparency.org](mailto:director@ukctransparency.org)>

**Sent:** Thursday, February 22, 2024 1:47 PM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Re: Yike Guo

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**Sam Dunning** <[director@ukctransparency.org](mailto:director@ukctransparency.org)>

25 March 2024 at 15:35

**To:** [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you. It strikes me that something is being obscured here. You explain that Guo "left" Imperial & DSI in 2022, but you do not state that that was when his "association" with Imperial and DSI ended. Rather, you simply state that it "has" now ended. You also state that there exists information that you *cannot* tell me - with reference to personal data laws. It strikes me then that I should summarise Imperial's formal response as follows:

***Question: When did Guo cease to work in any capacity as director or co-director of the Data Science Institute? When did his role at DSI formally end?***

Response: "the information that you are requesting is personal data relating to an individual's contract, which we are not able to disclose."

***When did Guo lose his staff privileges at Imperial?***

Response: "the information that you are requesting is personal data relating to an individual's contract, which we are not able to disclose."

Have I understood correctly?

Sam

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**To:** "director@ukctransparency.org" <[director@ukctransparency.org](mailto:director@ukctransparency.org)>

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

3 April 2024 at 16:20

Dear Sam,

[REDACTED] is now on leave, so picking this up in her absence.

Prof Guo ceased to work at the DSI, and his role there formally ended, when he left Imperial in 2022. We're not able to give further detail about his contract as this is personal data.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Head of Strategic Media**

Communications Division

Imperial College London

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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