



Ministry
of Defence

Security Policy and Operations

Ministry of Defence

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E-mail: SPOCorpGov-
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Ref: FOI2023/09673

29 September 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 4 August 2023 requesting the following information:

- *Details of MoD funding given to the Lau China Institute of King's College London in 2018-19 or any of its staff*
- *Details of the purpose of any funding given*
- *The title of any MoD project or programme in which the Lau China Institute or any of its staff is a partner*
- *All emails between MoD staff and Professor Kerry Brown of the Lau China Institute since 2018*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held.

Some of the information held in scope of your request falls within the scope of the absolute exemption provided for at Section 40 (Personal Information). Section 40 (2) (Personal Information) has been applied to some of the information in order to protect personal information as governed by the Data Protection Act 1998. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information.

With regards to the first and second parts of your request, asking for details of MOD funding given to the Lau China Institute of King's College London in 2018-19 or any of its staff and the purpose of any funding given, I can confirm the MOD holds some information in scope. The MOD has not given any funding to the Lau China Institute of King's College London in 2018-19, but Professor Kerry Brown received funding in November of 2019 as an honorarium for speaking at the Royal College of Defence Studies, and reasonable travel and subsistence costs were reimbursed. The details of the MOD funding given to Professor Kerry Brown have been withheld under Section 40 (2) of the FOIA.

With regards to the third part of your request, asking for the title of any MoD project or programme in which the Lau China Institute or any of its staff is a partner, I can confirm no information in scope is held.

With regards to the fourth part of your request, asking for all emails between MOD staff and Professor Kerry Brown of the Lau China Institute since 2018, please find attached Annexes A-H

which contain all emails held between MOD staff and Professor Kerry Brown since 2018. Some of the information has been redacted and withheld under Section 40 (2) (Personal Information).

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact us in the first instance at the address above. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

SPO Secretariat and Communications
Ministry of Defence