



[REDACTED]
China Strategic Risks Institute

By email only: [REDACTED]

02 May 2024

Ref: FOI 3284

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing in response to your request for information regarding the HBU-UCLan School of Media, Communication and Creative Industries (Ref FOI 3284).

The information you requested is as follows:

- Total annual budget allocated to its directly-affiliated Chinese Communist Party branch by the HBU-UCLan School of Media, Communication and Creative Industries during the years 2015-2023.
- Total annual expenditure spent by the HBU-UCLan School of Media, Communication and [REDACTED] Creative Industries' Chinese Communist Party branch during the years 2015-2023.

We do not hold this information as UCLan does not have any role in the financial management of the HBU-UCLan School.

HBU-UCLan's approval under the Chinese Ministry of Education (MoE) is as a "Joint Institute" (second level of MoE approval) but purely in academic terms (i.e. it is a partnership in which there is an entity that delivers a dual award in which students receive a degree from both partners and both partners collaborate to do this). This is different from an "University with Independent Status" (top-level of MoE approval) which would be a Joint Venture (JV) company and would involve both parties making joint decisions on how to spend a shared budget.

In a Joint Institute, the estate, finances and management of the financial aspects of the institute is purely the responsibility of the Chinese party (in this case, Hebei University (HBU)) and UCLan only receives a per-student fee for its role in delivery of the programmes. There is no shared budget (outside of, for example, individual small-scale research projects) and all funding for the institute comes from student income paid directly to the partner. UCLan does not have any say in how HBU chooses to spend this money, and so we do not have access to information about budgets or expenditure.

Any questions about these budgets/expenditures should be directed to HBU. However, please be aware that this would be outside the scope of UK Freedom of Information law.



If you are unhappy with the way we have handled your request for information, you are entitled to [redacted] an internal review; however, you must do so within 40 working days of the date of this response. Any [redacted] will be carried out by a senior member of staff who was not involved with your original [redacted] an internal review, contact DPFOIA@uclan.ac.uk in the first instance.

If you are unhappy with the outcome of any internal review, you are entitled to complain to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). To do so, you can use the ICO complaints portal on their web: <http://www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints>

Alternatively, you can contact the ICO by telephone on 01625 545 745 or by post at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

Information Governance Officer

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