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Freedom of Information request: FOI2024/00220

Thank you for your email of 27 March 2024 requesting information about the Zhejiang University-University of Edinburgh Institute (ZJU-UoE Institute) Chinese Communist Party branch.

The University of Edinburgh is a global university, rooted in Scotland. We are internationally recognised for our research, development and innovation and we have provided world-class teaching to our students for more than 430 years. We are the largest university in Scotland and in 2022/23 our annual revenue was £1.4 billion, of which £340 million was research income. We have just under 50,000 students and over 15,000 staff. We are a founding member of the UK's Russell Group of leading research universities and a member of the League of European Research Universities.

International range of activities

The University operates on an international stage and this is reflected in all areas of university life. The institution has a range of framework agreements with leading universities, ministries and governments throughout the world. We collaborate daily with national and international colleagues - jointly researching, teaching, organising conferences and providing seminars. We also offer a growing number of jointly awarded PhD degree programmes in partnership with universities within the UK and beyond. This extensive range of national and international activities is reflected fully in the ZJU-UoE Institute partnership.

Zhejiang University-University of Edinburgh Institute (ZJU-UoE Institute)

Established in 2016, the ZJU-UoE Institute is the University of Edinburgh's flagship overseas institution for education and scientific research. It is based at the international campus of ZJU in Haining, Zhejiang Province, China, which provides purpose-built, state-of-the-art research, teaching, and accommodation and recreation facilities. The ZJU-UoE Institute is a collaboration in the field of Biomedical Sciences. Further information [about the ZJU-UoE Institute](#) can be found on the University website.

The ZJU- UoE Institute's Chinese Communist Party branch

You asked for the total annual budget allocated by the ZJU-UoE Institute to its directly-affiliated Chinese Communist Party (CCP) branch during the years 2015-2023, and the total annual expenditure spent by the ZJU-UoE Institute's CCP branch during the years 2015-2023.

The University of Edinburgh is not aware of there being a CCP branch directly affiliated with the ZJU-UoE Institute. An annual budget is not allocated by the ZJU-UoE Institute from its approved budget to any such CCP branch.

Under the terms of the ZJU-UoE Institute cooperation agreement, governance is carried out by the Joint Management Committee (JMC), consisting of representatives from both UoE and ZJU. The JMC is the highest authority of the Institute and, as such, approves the overall budgets, including the separate budget for the reimbursement of UoE activity. The JMC has no direct relationship with a CCP branch and is not involved in approving any budget allocated to CCP activity.

The University of Edinburgh has no involvement with any CCP branch as part of the ZJU-UoE Institute partnership, and therefore does not hold any information on such a CCP branch, including its total annual expenditure.

You asked us to provide the name of the appropriate entity or partner institution to contact, should we not hold the information you have requested. The Zhejiang University itself may have a formal arrangement with a CCP branch. However, this is not in the remit or approval process of the JMC.

Right to review

If you are dissatisfied with this response, you may ask the University to conduct a review of this decision by contacting the University's Records Management Section in writing (e.g., by letter or email) or in some other recorded form (e.g., audio or video tape). You should describe the original request, explain your grounds for dissatisfaction, and include an address for correspondence. You have 40 working days from receipt of this letter to submit a review request. The contact details for the Records Management Section are at the top of this letter. When the review process has been completed, if you are still dissatisfied, you may use the [Scottish Information Commissioner's guidance on making an appeal](#) to make an appeal to the Commissioner. If you do not have access to the Internet, please let me know and I will provide a copy of the relevant web pages.

Privacy notice for information request applicants

[The University of Edinburgh's request privacy notice](#), which describes how we use the information you have supplied about yourself and your request, is published on the University website.

Yours sincerely



Records Management Section

If you require this letter in an alternative format, such as large print or a coloured background, please contact the Records Management Section on 0131 651 4099 or email recordsmanagement@ed.ac.uk