

Our Reference: FOI.2024.09.1415

UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

Sam Dunning

Legal Services

(By Email)

Director
Dr N Cárdenas Blanco
Solicitor

26 September 2024

Dear Sam Dunning

Re: request for information under The Freedom of Information Act.

Further to your request for information dated 4 September 2024, please find attached the University of Birmingham's response. If you have any queries regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

If you are unhappy with the manner in which your request has been dealt with, you may ask the University to conduct an internal review of its response. If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision on whether the University's response complies with the Freedom of Information Act. A copy of the University's Complaints and Appeals procedure, which provides further details of your rights, is attached.

Please note our statement in respect of Copyright, which is also attached.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Team
University of Birmingham

Encs

Your request for information reads:

- *The number of visits to China in the last 18 months by the Vice-Chancellor (or equivalent), any pro-VC (or equivalent), dean international (or equivalent), or any other executive-level staff (not academic or research staff).*
- *Please, for each visit, state the role of the staffmember(s) who went, and a list of meetings/itinerary.*

The University of Birmingham responds:

The University of Birmingham is required to respond to a request made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the Act") if it holds the information being requested, unless it is appropriate to apply one of the limited exemptions set out in the Act.

- The number of visits to China in the last 18 months by the Vice-Chancellor (or equivalent), any pro-VC (or equivalent), dean international (or equivalent), or any other executive-level staff (not academic or research staff).

In the previous 18 months from the date of this request, a total of 5 visits to China were made by executive-level staff of the University of Birmingham, acting in their professional capacity. To be clear, executive-level includes the Vice-Chancellor, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Dean International, and other equivalent positions. The University has excluded academic staff and research staff as requested.

- Please, for each visit, state the role of the staffmember(s) who went, and a list of meetings/itinerary.

Please see the table below which states the role of the staff member who visited China, and the corresponding itinerary / list of meetings.

Title	Purpose of visit
PVC International	Hong Kong Foundation
PVC International	Hong Kong - itinerary: Reception, International Expo, Speak at Forum
PVC International	Hong Kong Foundation and Alumni events. And U21 AGM
PVC Head of College of Engineering and Physical Sciences	Meetings with UK Consul General, staff from the University, JMC, JNU President and J-BJI Tours of JNU Shipai campus, JNU Panyu and Tianhe campuses Alumni event J-BJI graduation. King's birthday celebrations,
Vice-Chancellor	Meetings with partners and stakeholders in Shanghai and Nanjing Meeting with Huazhong University of Science and Technology, roundtable and programme launch event Visit to Jiangsu Industrial Technology Research Institute Media interviews

The University of Birmingham

Freedom of Information

Complaints and Appeals Procedure

If you are dissatisfied with the manner in which your request has been dealt with, you may ask for an internal review. If you want us to carry out a review, please let us know within 40 working days by contacting foi@contacts.bham.ac.uk and this matter will be referred to the University's Director of Legal Services or nominee for consideration.

Further details about the University's Internal Review process can be found at: <https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/university/leadership/governance/policies-regs/information/index.aspx>

If you are still dissatisfied after our internal review, you can complain to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). You should make complaints to the ICO within six weeks of receiving the outcome of an internal review. The easiest way to lodge a complaint is through their website: www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints or write to:

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

Tel: 0303 123 1113 (local rate) / 01625 545 745 (national rate number)
Email: casework@ico.org.uk

The University of Birmingham

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