

Request:

As part of a response to a FOIA request received by the University, please could you provide the Information Governance Unit ("IGU") with the following information:

- 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 staff member(s) who went, and a list of meetings/itinerary.

Response:

Over the past 18 months, there have been 14 visits to China.

Regarding your request for the list of meetings/itinerary, we have determined that this information falls under Section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which relates to commercially sensitive information. Disclosing details of the meetings would likely reveal the University's strategic plans, business negotiations, or other sensitive topics that competitors could exploit, potentially impacting the University's activities in collaboration, teaching, learning, research, and innovation. We have carefully considered the public interest in disclosing the requested information. However, we have determined that the University's interest in maintaining its competitive position in both the national and global markets outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

Regarding the request for roles of the staff who travelled to China, we consider that this information falls under Section 40(2) and s40(3) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000; this is because the requested information contains personal data of individuals who could be identified, as defined by the Data Protection Act 2018. We are not obliged to disclose information that constitutes the personal data of another individual or where its release would contravene Data Protection principles, particularly those of lawfulness, fairness, and transparency.