



23 September 2024

File ref: FOI2024/00568

Sam Dunning

Sent by email: director@ukctransparency.org

Dear Sam Dunning

Freedom of Information request: FOI2024/00568

Thank you for your email of 4 September 2024 requesting information about Senior Leadership Team visits to China.

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.

Your information request

You asked how many visits were made to China in the last 18 months by the Vice Chancellor, any Pro-Vice Chancellor, Dean International, or any other non-academic and non-research executive-level staff of any equivalent description. You wanted these visits broken down by the role of the members of staff who went, and for a list of their meetings and their itinerary.

I have interpreted your request to refer to any members of the University's Senior Leadership Team (SLT) including the Principal, Vice Principal, and Thematic Vice Principals. I have also interpreted China to refer to mainland China.

In the last 18 months, no members of the University SLT have visited mainland China. Therefore, the University does not hold the information to answer your request.

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 Information Compliance Services 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 Information Compliance Services 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



Information Compliance Services

If you require this letter in an alternative format, such as large print or a coloured background, please contact Information Compliance Services on 0131 651 4099 or email informationcompliance@ed.ac.uk.



23 October 2024

File ref: FOI2024/00631

Sam Dunning

Sent by email: director@ukctransparency.org

Dear Sam Dunning

Freedom of Information request: FOI2024/00631

Thank you for your email of 23 September 2024 requesting information about Senior Leadership Team visits to Hong Kong and Macao.

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.

Hong Kong and the University of Edinburgh

Hong Kong is home to a large number of University of Edinburgh alumni, multiple individual and organisational stakeholders, and is the base of the University's Hong Kong Foundation. Via the Hong Kong Foundation, our alumni and friends in the region play an important role in supporting a tradition of partnership. From supporting exchange programmes that allow students from Hong Kong to study in Edinburgh, to contributing to cutting edge research that shapes our collective future, philanthropy in Hong Kong is helping the University of Edinburgh deliver on its ultimate vision to make the world a better place. [More information about the University's Hong Kong Foundation](#) can be found on the University website.

Your information request

You asked how many visits were made to Hong Kong or Macao in the last 18 months by the Vice Chancellor, any Pro-Vice Chancellor, Dean International, or any other non-academic and non-research executive-level staff of any equivalent description. You asked for information about the role of the members of staff who visited Hong Kong or Macao and for information about the meetings attended or itinerary of the visit.

I have interpreted your request to refer to any members of the University's [Senior Leadership Team \(SLT\)](#), including the Principal and Vice-Principals, and the University's [Thematic Vice-Principals](#) who visited Hong Kong or Macao between 1 March 2023 and 23 September 2024, the date of your request.

Visits to Hong Kong in 2023

From 20 to 23 March 2023, Mr Chris Cox, Vice-Principal Philanthropy and Advancement and Executive Director of Development and Alumni, travelled to Hong Kong to attend eight meetings and events with Development and Alumni contacts, University alumni, and academic contacts, as part of a wider visit to the region including to Singapore.

From 25 to 29 September 2023, Professor David Argyle, Vice-Principal and Head of the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine, travelled to Hong Kong where he acted as the chair of an external review panel for the City University of Hong Kong Veterinary School.

Visits to Hong Kong in 2024

Three members of the University's Senior Leadership Team travelled to Hong Kong for the [U21 Annual Network and Presidential Symposium](#) which was held at the University of Hong Kong. Professor Colm Harmon, Vice-Principal Students, attended the Symposium from 23 to 26 April. Professor Sir Peter Mathieson, Principal and Vice Chancellor, and Mr Chris Cox, Vice-Principal Philanthropy and Advancement and Executive Director of Development and Alumni, attended the Symposium from 24 to 25 April and then, from 25 to 29 April, attended nine meetings and events with Development and Alumni contacts and University alumni in Hong Kong.

The Principal is responsible for the overall operation of the University and as such represents the University at strategically significant meetings and events worldwide. International travel is an essential part of the Principal's role, which includes hosting fundraising opportunities, developing and maintaining global partnerships, and supporting our alumni community and network of international offices.

Visits to Macao

None of the Senior Leadership Team including the Principal and the Vice-Principals or the Thematic Vice-Principals visited Macao in the last 18 months.

Right to review

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