

Our ref: F24/161

27th September 2024

Dear Sam Dunning

Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002

Your request for information has been considered and our response is below.

1. 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.

19-28 May 2023

- **Dean: School of Computing, Engineering and Physical Sciences**
- **Deputy Vice Chancellor**

Visited:

- **Changchun Institute of Technology**
- **Changchun University of Science and Technology**
- **Wuxi Taihu University**

12-20 September 2023

- **Dean: School of Computing, Engineering and Physical Sciences**

Visited:

- **Changchun University of Science and Technology**
- **Wuxi Taihu University**

7-11 May 2024

- **Dean: School of Computing, Engineering and Physical Sciences**
- **Deputy Vice Chancellor**

Visited:

- **Wuxi Taihu University**

Section 33(1)(b) Commercial Interests and the economy.

The information requested for list of meetings/itinerary for each visit. Release of this information would be detrimental to our commercial interests. The market in working with and recruiting overseas Universities and students is highly competitive. UWS is competing not only with other Scottish Universities but with other UK Universities and other Universities globally. The future of the University is dependent on

attracting overseas students not just from a financial perspective but to enhance the student experience by working and living with individuals from different cultures and backgrounds so that our students feel comfortable on the world stage. We consider that releasing information relating to the negotiations, planning, finances and potential strategic partnerships may benefit our competitors who could use this information when determining meeting with University partners. Consequently, this would adversely affect our ability to operate in a commercial environment and obtain value for money for the public purse.

This exemption is a qualified one and a public interest test is applicable. The public interest lies in protecting the commercial and financial interests of the University in this competitive market by withholding this information.

If you are not satisfied with the handling of your enquiry you have a right to review under the Act as laid out in the notices below.

Yours sincerely

**Freedom of Information Office
University of the West of Scotland**

Notices

1. Right of Review

In the event that you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request for information, you may require us to review our actions and decisions relating to your request ('Review Request').

Your Review Request must be made to us in writing or in other durable form, stating your name and address for correspondence, specifying the request for information to which your Review Request relates and the matters that have given rise to your dissatisfaction.

It must be provided to us within 40 working days (which phrase excludes Saturdays, Sundays, Christmas Day and Scottish Bank Holidays) after the expiry of the period within which we were obliged under the Act to respond to your request for information.

You may withdraw your Review Request by notice to us in writing at any time.

Assuming your Review Request is not withdrawn, we are required to conduct our review and respond to you ('Review Response') within 20 working days (which phrase excludes Saturdays, Sundays, Christmas Day and Scottish Bank Holidays) after the date on which we received your Review Request. The request for review should be addressed to:

Emma Cuckow, Head of Legal Services, University of the West of Scotland, Paisley Campus, Paisley, PA1 2BE Email: Emma.Cuckow@uws.ac.uk

2. Right of Appeal

In the event that you have not withdrawn your Review Request and we have failed to respond to you within the proscribed time, or you are dissatisfied with our Review Response, you may apply to the Scottish Information Commissioner for a decision as to whether we have dealt with your request in accordance with the Act ('Appeal Application').

Your Appeal Application must be made to the Scottish Information Commissioner in writing or in other durable form, stating your name and address for correspondence, specifying the request for information to which your Appeal Application relates and the matters that have given rise to your dissatisfaction.

It must be provided to the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months after the date you received our Review Response or, in the event that we did not provide you with a Review Response within the proscribed time, within six months after the expiry of that period. The address of the Scottish Information Commissioner is:

Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS Tel 01334 464 610; Fax 01334 464 611; email: enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info; www.itspublicknowledge.info