

Our Ref: FOI2024/139

Sam Dunning
info@ukctransparency.org

Wednesday, 02 October 2024

Dear Sam Dunning,

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Regarding your request for information received by the University of Westminster on 4th September 2024.

The Request

The University can confirm that it holds information relating to your request. Please see below for details of your recent request.

- **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.**

The Response

University of Westminster staff have made the following visits to China in the last 18th months:

27th November 2023

Beijing Normal University (BNU), School of Arts & Communication

UoW attendees: Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Knowledge Exchange and Head of College of Design, Creative and Digital Industries, Director of Transnational Education

BNU attendees: Vice President, Dean, Associate Dean, Director, Department of Digital Media, Deputy Director, Office of International Exchange & Cooperation

Information Compliance Team

University of Westminster
3rd Floor, 32-38 Wells Street
London, W1T 3UW
T: +44 (0)20 7911 5158
E: foi@westminster.ac.uk

28th November 2023

Communication University of China (CUC) – celebration of 10th anniversary of cooperation project

UoW attendees: Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Knowledge Exchange and Head of College, Director of Transnational Education

CUC, School of Economics and Management (SEM)

Meet teachers and class of 2023

Cooperation meeting with the Dean of SEM

Symposium with Vice President

3rd – 4th July 2024

The 7th International Conference on Internationalisation of Higher Education (ICIHE) and the 20th Anniversary Celebration of International College, GDUFS

UoW attendees: Deputy Vice-Chancellor Global Engagement and Employability, Director of Transnational Education

17th September 2024

Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU)

UoW attendees: Deputy Vice-Chancellor Global Engagement and Employability, Director of Transnational Education

Meeting with HKBU School of Business, Associate Dean, Assistant Dean

19th September 2024

The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong

UoW attendees: Deputy Vice-Chancellor Global Engagement and Employability, Director of Transnational Education

Meetings with: Provost Associate Director Institute of Knowledge Exchange

British Consulate, Director of Trade & Investment

HK Alumni Event

20th September 2024

Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK)

UoW attendees: Deputy Vice-Chancellor Global Engagement and Employability, Director of Transnational Education

Meeting with Director of the School of Architecture

25th September 2024

Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU)

UoW attendees: Deputy Vice-Chancellor Global Engagement and Employability, Director of Transnational Education

Meeting with:

Deputy Secretary of Beijing Foreign Studies University

Deputy Director of International Exchange and Cooperation Office

Vice-Dean of the School of English and International Studies

Lecturer of the School of International Journalism and Communication

Coordinator, Division of Global Partnership, International Exchange and Cooperation Office

Communication University of China (CUC) Beijing

UoW attendees: Deputy Vice-Chancellor Global Engagement and Employability, Director of Transnational Education

Meeting with MLeague and industry representatives from across the world

26th September 2024

Communication University of China (CUC) Beijing

UoW attendees: Deputy Vice-Chancellor Global Engagement and Employability, Director of Transnational Education

CUC's 70th Anniversary Celebration Ceremony

The MLeague Symposium of AI and Higher Education and Sustainable Development of the MLeague

27th September 2024

Beijing Institute of Fashion Technology (BIFT)

UoW attendees: Deputy Vice-Chancellor Global Engagement and Employability, Director of Transnational Education

Meeting and signing of MoU with: Vice President

Director, Advanced Interdisciplinary Research Institute

Director, Office of External Engagement

Deputy Dean, School of Fashion

Deputy Dean, School of Art and Design

Deputy Director, International Office

Project Coordinator, International Office

Regarding the names of staff and third parties, under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, Section 40 provides an exemption from the duty to disclose information where it constitutes personal data, as defined in the Data Protection Act section 1(1). The information that you have requested may well enable identification of a particular employee or other individual and would therefore constitute personal information.

For your information the Freedom of Information Act S40 personal information exemption says:

"(1) Any information to which a request for information relates is exempt information if it constitutes personal data of which the applicant is the data subject.

(2) Any information to which a request for information relates is also exempt information if—

(a) it constitutes personal data which do not fall within subsection (1), and (b) either the first or the second condition below is satisfied.

(3) The first condition is—

(a) in a case where the information falls within any of paragraphs (a) to (d) of the definition of "data" in section 1(1) of the Data Protection Act 1998, that the disclosure of the information to a member of the public otherwise than under this Act would contravene—

*(i) **any of the data protection principles**, or*

(ii) section 10 of that Act (right to prevent processing likely to cause damage or distress), and

(b) in any other case, that the disclosure of the information to a member of the public otherwise than under this Act would contravene any of the data protection principles if the exemptions in section 33A(1) of the Data Protection Act 1998 (which relate to manual data held by public authorities) were disregarded.

(4) The second condition is that by virtue of any provision of Part IV of the Data Protection Act 1998 the information is exempt from section 7(1)(c) of that Act (data subject's right of access to personal data)."

See <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/section/40>

Personal information is exempt from disclosure under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act if doing so would be unfair and unlawful. In assessing whether disclosure of this personal information would be fair the University considers whether the information is sensitive personal data, the possible consequences of disclosure on the individual concerned, the reasonable expectations of the individual, whether the information has been or remains in the public domain, the FOIA principles of transparency and accountability, and whether there is a legitimate interest in the public or requester having access to the information and the balance between this and the rights and freedoms of the data subjects.

While the information you have requested is not considered sensitive personal data the identification of individuals and their personal information without their consent in cases where confidentiality can be reasonably expected would risk a breach of the first principle of the Data Protection Act 2018. The university therefore believes the S(40)(2) exemption is engaged and will withhold the information in the form that you requested.

We hope this information may be of use to you.

Copyright in our response to your request belongs to the University of Westminster. All rights are reserved. This document is for personal use only and may not be copied, or stored in any electronic form, or reproduced in any other way or used for any other purpose, either in whole or in part, without the prior written consent of the University of Westminster. All copies of this document must incorporate this Copyright Notice. If you are dissatisfied with this response you may ask the University to conduct a review of its decision.

By Post: Information Compliance Team
University of Westminster
3rd floor, 32-38 Wells Street
London, W1T 3UW

By Telephone: 0207 911 5158
By Email: foi@westminster.ac.uk

Please do so in writing (including by fax, letter or email) or in some other recorded form (e.g. audio or video tape), describe the original request, explain your grounds for dissatisfaction, and include an address for correspondence.

If after contacting the University of Westminster you are not happy with the outcome, you also have a right of appeal to the Information Commissioner.

Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate the case until the internal review process has been completed.

By Post: Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane

Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

By Telephone: 0303 123 1113
Web: www.ico.org.uk

Yours sincerely,
Information Compliance Team
foi@westminster.ac.uk