

Data Protection and Information Compliance
Governance, Information and Legal Team
103 Borough Road
London SE1 0AA
Email: foi@lsbu.ac.uk

27 March 2020

Dear Dirk Eisman

Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Information Request Ref: FOI 2022

We refer to your email on 28 February 2020 where you requested a Freedom of Information review of FOI 2022, the Group Secretary for London South Bank University (LSBU) has now considered your request for the internal review and has completed his assessment. Our response is below, together with a copy of your request attached.

Your request for a review of our response was that (in summary):

- You disagreed with our reasoning for refusing any agreements being available to you between the Confucius Institute and LSBU;
- The current view of public concern surrounding funding by Chinese sources and whether they are influencing UK Organisations;
- You stated it is important that an organisation discloses how it received and spends public money from China and the UK, as only then would the Institute operate transparently;

In reaching our decision we have reviewed arguments for and against in releasing information under the public interest test. We have further consulted internally and understand the arguments made by you in terms of the public interest test in releasing the information.

We accept that that it is in the public interest to share some information you have requested, and that if Universities do not disclose this information (agreements between Confucius Institute and LSBU) we are not being transparent with the Public. However, we do feel that we are unable to disclose all information that is contained in the attached Contract Agreement 2014 between the Confucius Institute and LSBU. Therefore, some information within the contract has been withheld under Section 43 (2) subject to Commercial Interests. We have redacted parts of the contract agreement as releasing this information would prejudice our commercial interests. Disclosing this information could give our competitors and potential private providers a level of insight

that would be damaging to the long term strategic and financial success of LSBU. As a public body LSBU has a duty of transparency, however there is also a public interest in LSBU maintaining its strategic and financial viability in a competitive environment. Therefore, we are unable to provide information relating to funding between the Confucius Institute and LSBU.

The Group Secretary has therefore decided to partially uphold the initial decision to partially exempt the agreements between Confucius Institute and LSBU. A copy of a Contract Agreement between the Confucius Institute and LSBU 2014 has been attached.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us and quote the reference above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The information Commissioner can be contacted at Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF and further details can be found at <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/>.

Yours sincerely,

Data Protection and Information Compliance

Governance Information and Legal Team

London South Bank University

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Re: Freedom of Information Act 2000- Information Request Ref FOI 2022

Please see the request of FOI 2022 and LSBUs response below.

LSBU's Response (In Blue)

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I request the following:

Agreements and supplementary agreements with the Office of Chinese Language Council International (Hanban) and the Heilongjiang University of Chinese Medicine on the establishment / continuation of the Confucius Institute for Traditional Chinese Medicine in London.

Please see the attached Contract Agreement between the Confucius Institute and LSBU 2014 and the exemption applied above in relation to the redacted Items of the Contract Agreement.