



4 February 2021

RECORDS MANAGEMENT SECTION

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Jenna Corderoy

Sent by email: request-686165-009c3f8f@whatdotheyknow.com

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Dear Jenna Corderoy

Freedom of information request

Thank you for your email of 20 August 2020 requesting information about funds from Chinese sources. Please accept our apologies for the delay to our response to your request. The University's working practices are currently affected by the Coronavirus outbreak.

The University of Edinburgh is a global university, rooted in Scotland. We are globally recognised for our research, development and innovation and we have provided world-class teaching to our students for more than 425 years. We are the largest university in Scotland and in 2018/19 our annual revenue was £1.1 billion, of which £286 million was research income. We have over 43,000 students and almost 16,000 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.

Funds from China

You asked about donations, gifts, grants and research funding of over £10,000 received from Chinese individuals, companies, charities, government departments or agencies, and organisations in financial years 2017/18 to 2019/20. You asked for the date, sum and purpose of any sum received, and the data, sum and reason for any sum rejected.

Grants and research funding

I have provided information about research funding from Chinese organisations in table 1 on the enclosure. Please note that funding is dated by award confirmation. For instance if an award was received for three years of research in 2017, the entire value of the award will appear in that academic year (rather than the award value being distributed over the lifetime of the award). Where an award funded multiple projects I have listed these projects under the main award. An additional three projects commenced in academic year 2017/18 which were funded under the 2016/17 Distributed Data Management and Processing Laboratory agreement with Huawei: Research collaboration on cloud computing, Research collaboration on service quality assurance in mobile networks, and Research collaboration on applications of deep learning.

You will see that I have provided those research collaborations with Huawei which are not studentships or part of Data Laboratory funding in bands. If we disclose precise figures then bidders for research funding could deduce award thresholds and could amend their application behaviour to take advantage of this. Disclosing this information would be likely to substantially prejudice the commercial interests of a third party, as this would compromise Huawei's ability to negotiate effectively in future research projects. The Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 does not require us to provide this sort of information as it is exempt under section 33(1)(b).

This exemption is subject to the public interest test. There is a strong public interest in openness and transparency. There is also a strong public interest in universities and third parties to be able to negotiate effectively in future funding applications. In this case, the University considers the public interest in withholding this information outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

Gifts received by the University

The University's [Code of Practice for Staff on the Receipt of Gifts, Hospitality and Other Benefits](#) explains the circumstances in which staff may be offered gifts the course of their University duties. For example, a member of staff receiving official visitors may be given mementoes of the visitor's own institution/organisation, or promotional items such as diaries or calendars.

So that the University's schools and subject areas are managed according to their individual and distinctive operational needs, the University operates a devolved management structure comprising three academic colleges, subdivided into twenty schools, and three support groups, subdivided into some seventy support services.

The University does not operate a central register of gifts and hospitality received by staff. Information on gifts received could be held by a range of departments within this structure. To respond to your request fully, I would have to contact all areas within the University. Doing this would cost more than £600, the limit over which the University is not required to respond to freedom of information requests.

If you were to restrict your request to a particular area of the University, the cost would be reduced. A [list of the University's schools and departments](#) is available on our website.

Donations received by the University

In table 2 on the enclosure, I have provided information about donations received by the University from Chinese organisations and individuals. You will see that I have withheld the name of an individual who donated to the University. This is because disclosing this information would breach the data protection principles set out in data protection legislation. The Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 does not require us to provide this sort of information as it is exempt under section 38(1)(b).

Donations rejected by the University

The University holds no information about donations, gifts, grants or research funding from organisations or individuals from China rejected during the timeframe of 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 Records Management Section 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 the Records Management Section 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

Rob Don

Information Compliance Officer

Enc. Table 1: Research funding over £10,000 from Chinese organisations, 2017/18 - 2020/21; Table 2: Donations over £10,000 from Chinese organisations or individuals, 2017/18 - 2020/21

If you require this letter in an alternative format, such as large print or a coloured background, please contact the Records Management Section on 0131 651 4099 or email recordsmanagement@ed.ac.uk

Table 1: Research funding over £10,000 from Chinese organisations, 2017/18 - 2020/21

Date	Funder	Project title	Funding amount
2017/18	Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd.	Research collaboration in neural networks	£100,001-£250,000
2017/18	Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd.	Research collaboration on query answering systems	<£100,000
2017/18	Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd.	Distributed Data Management and Processing Laboratory (amendment #1)	£1,000,000
		2017/18 Research collaboration in graph computation	
		2017/18 Research collaboration in machine learning	
		2017/18 Studentship in distributed trust systems	
2018/19	Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd.	7 PhD Studentships in dialogue systems and data systems	£1,198,411
2018/19	Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd.	Research collaboration on query answering systems (continuation funding)	£100,001-£250,000
2018/19	Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd.	PhD Studentship in heterogeneous computing	£175,838
2018/19	Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd.	Distributed Data Management and Processing Laboratory (amendment #2)	£599,999
		2018/19 Research collaboration on parallel compilation	
		2018/19 PhD Studentship in property-based testing	
		2018/19 Research collaboration on SQL formalisation	
		2019/20 Studentship in machine learning #1	
		2019/20 Studentship in machine learning #2	
		2019/20 Studentship in knowledge representation	
		2019/20 Studentship in natural language processing	
		2019/20 Studentship in video summarisation	
		2019/20 Studentship in data mining	
2019/20	Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd.	Research collaboration in blockchain technology	<£100,000
2019/20	Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd.	2 PhD Studentships in Natural Language Processing	£300,000
2019/20	Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd.	Research collaboration in deep neural networks	£250,001-£500,000
2019/20	Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd.	Research collaboration in social media analysis	<£100,000
2019/20	Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd.	Distributed Data Management and Processing Laboratory (extraordinary payment)	£252,429
		2019/20 Research collaboration in parallel programming	
2019/20	Imsowise Technology	2019/20 Research collaboration in digital currency transactions	£60,000
2019/20	Shenzhen Leengstar Technology Co., Ltd.	2019/20 Research collaboration in machine learning	£32,432
2019/20	99cloud Inc.	2019/20 Research collaboration in intelligent edge platforms	£404,018
2019/20	Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd.	Distributed Data Management and Processing Laboratory (amendment #3)	£9,934,000
		2019/20 Studentships in natural language processing	
		2019/20 Studentships in compiler technologies	
		2019/20 Research collaboration in data sharing	

Table 2: Donations over £10,000 from Chinese organisations or individuals, 2017/18 - 2020/21

Date	Donor	Description (Fund name, use for donation etc.)	Contribution
2019/20	Individual information withheld	Morrison Fellowship in Theology and AI Ethics	£16,000
	Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd	Research collaboration on memory architectures	£60,958