

Request Reference: 3620

FOI Request dated 16/03/2026 -

My request appertains to the Confucius Institute at the University.

Part (a) of my request

- *All agreements and contracts with the Office of Chinese Language Council International (Hanban) and any Chinese Education Trust or University from China on the establishment / continuation of the Confucius Institute at your University since the opening in PDF format*

Part (b) of my request

I am looking for information over donations, gifts, grants and/or funding from the following organisations to the University's Institute since opening:

- *Organisations based in China;*
- *Organisations affiliated with the Chinese government, such as Hanban;*
- *The Chinese government and its departments; and*
- *Companies with Chinese ownership.*
- *Chinese Educational Trusts or Universities.*

Please could you provide the following in an Excel document:

- *The date the University accepted/rejectedd such donation, gift, grant and funding;*
- *The sum and description of the accepted/rejectedd donation, gift, grant and funding;*
- *The names of the organisations that made or proposed to make such donation, gift, grant and funding; and*
- *A description of what the donation, gift, grant and funding was used for, or why it was rejected.*

Part (c) of my request

I would also like to request the following information since opening of the Confucius Institute:

- *The amount of donation, gift, grant and funding the Institute provided to each Confucius classroom it manages by year (including a list of all Confucius classrooms); and*
- *The provenance and purpose of such funding.*

Response

Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) places two duties on public authorities. Unless exemptions apply, the first duty at Section 1(1)(a) is to confirm or deny whether the information specified in a

request is held. The second duty at Section 1(1)(b) is to disclose information that has been confirmed as being held. Where exemptions are relied upon Section 17 of FOIA requires that we provide the applicant with a notice which: a) states that fact b) specifies the exemption(s) in question and c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

Part C would require a manual review of over 3000 records to determine what funding was specifically for the CI, as we do not hold a separate CI classroom, spend account. Therefore, s12 of the Act applies.

Section 12 – Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit.

Under section 12(1), a public authority is not compelled to fulfil a request for information if it anticipates that the cost associated with compliance would surpass the defined 'appropriate limit' (set at 18 hours).

The time estimations for our calculations include:

- Determining if the information is held
- Locating the information or a document containing it;
- Retrieving the information or a document containing it; and
- Extracting the information from a document containing it.

However, the following activities are not factored into our calculations:

- The time spent identifying information subject to exemption.
- The time devoted to the redaction process.

This communication serves as a refusal notice in accordance with section 17(5) of the Act, which stipulates that a public authority, relying on the applicability of section 12, must notify the applicant of this fact within the stipulated timeframe for complying with section 1(1).

While the excess cost relieves the University of its obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, I have, as a goodwill gesture, provided information relevant to your request. This information was retrieved or available before it was determined that the cost limit would be exceeded. I hope this is beneficial, but it does not alter our legal right to rely on the fee regulations for the remainder of your request.

- A. Previous agreement in place from 2020 [Agreements on the Confucius Institute - a Freedom of Information request to University of Hull - WhatDoTheyKnow](#)
- B. [2585-confucius-institute/2603-china-sponsorship-or-funding](#)