



15 February 2021

KH Ross

By email: fyi-request-14450-41dc229d@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Sir/Madam

I refer to your request for information dated 13 January 2021 issued under the Official Information Act (Act).

You have asked for a list of PRC universities with which the University of Otago has a MOU or MOA, and copies of those agreements.

We have decided to grant your request in part.

We attach as an appendix to this letter a list of the universities in the People Republic of China with which the University of Otago has a Memorandum of Understanding.

We decline your request to provide copies of these memoranda of understanding pursuant to:

1. Section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the Act on the basis that making the MOUs available is likely to unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of those PRC partner institutions. It is likely that these PRC universities have or will have similar arrangements with other New Zealand universities and accordingly will not wish to compromise their commercial position.
2. Section 9(2)(j) of the Act on the basis that withholding the information would enable the University of Otago to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations with these PRC partner institutions in respect of renewal of these MOUs, and agreements flowing from the MOUs.

Although we are not able to provide copies of these MOUs for the reasons stated above, we note that these MOUs essentially provide a framework for how the parties intend to work together collaboratively to promote mutually beneficial interests. Some examples include - the parties agree to seek to promote the exchange of information that is of mutual interest, and the exchange of research students and/or staff.

We note your right to seek a review of these decisions via a complaint to an Ombudsman. However, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss any concerns with you first.

Yours faithfully

Mayhaka Mendis
Manager, Policy and Compliance
Office of the Registrar

APPENDIX

Memorandum of Understanding between University of Otago and universities in the People's Republic of China:
Affiliated Stomatological Hospital of Chongqing Medical University
Chengdu University of Traditional Chinese Medicine
China Research Institute for Science Popularization
China Scholarship Council
Chinese Service Center for Scholarly Exchange
Chinese University of Hong Kong
Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen
Dalian University of Foreign Languages
Fudan University
Fuzhou University
Jiangnan University
Jilin University
Jinan University
Peking University
Shanghai University
Tsinghua University School of Economics and Management
University of Hong Kong
Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University