



21 February 2022

John Trafalgar

By email: [fyi-request-18287-99d26754@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-18287-99d26754@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe John

### **Official information request regarding ethnic Chinese employees**

I refer to your request for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) dated 22 January 2022:

1. *Please advise the current number of employees and contractors who identified themselves as ethnic Chinese and was borned outside New Zealand. Please break down the number into employees vs contractors, full-time vs part-time, and academic vs non-academic.*
  2. *Please provide any policy, internal procedural and/or operational guidance documents on how the Victoria University of Wellington assesses the risks of espionage, intellectual property theft, and infiltration by the evil regime of Communist China in the Victoria University of Wellington before making any recruitment decision.*
  3. *Please provide any policy, internal procedural and/or operational guidance documents on how the Victoria University of Wellington monitors the risks of espionage, intellectual property theft, and infiltration by the evil regime of Communist China in the Victoria University of Wellington by and/or in relation to current employees and contractors on a continuous basis.*
- 1. Please advise the current number of employees and contractors who identified themselves as ethnic Chinese and was borned outside New Zealand. Please break down the number into employees vs contractors, full-time vs part-time, and academic vs non-academic.**

The University does not specifically collect information regarding staff members birthplaces. To provide this information would require a substantial amount of collation and research analysing a number of different metrics (e.g. citizenship, passport, work permit, visa etc.) to identify staff born outside of New Zealand. This would have a significant and unreasonable impact on the University's ability to carry out its other operations. As such, your request is refused under s18(f) of the Act.

**2. Please provide any policy, internal procedural and/or operational guidance documents on how the Victoria University of Wellington assesses the risks of espionage, intellectual property theft, and infiltration by the evil regime of Communist China in the Victoria University of Wellington before making any recruitment decision.**

Offers of employment at the University are conditional upon an individual providing evidence of having a legal entitlement to work for the University in the role offered (and maintaining that entitlement). In addition, roles at the University are conditional upon a range of security and background checks being completed that are satisfactory to the University. The University does not have any specific policies, procedural internal procedural or operational guidance documents to assess the risk of espionage, intellectual property theft, and infiltration by foreign states in relation to recruitment decisions. Therefore this aspect of your request is refused in accordance with s18(e) of the Act as the information does not exist.

**3. Please provide any policy, internal procedural and/or operational guidance documents on how the Victoria University of Wellington monitors the risks of espionage, intellectual property theft, and infiltration by the evil regime of Communist China in the Victoria University of Wellington by and/or in relation to current employees and contractors on a continuous basis.**

There are a number of University policies that govern security and the management of information at the University. These include:

- Intellectual property policy
- Information and Records Management and Security Policy
- Cyber Security Procedures
- Acceptable Use of Information Systems Statute
- Management of External Research, Consultancy and Related Contracts Policy
- Academic Agreements Policy
- Security Policy
- Staff Conduct Policy
- Student Conduct Statute

Further policies that may be of interest to you are available on our [policies page](#).

In addition to these policies, the University works with a range of government departments to ensure and maintain the integrity of our organisation, systems and research. For example, the University recently assisted Te Pōkai Tara—Universities New Zealand (UNZ) in working with the Government’s Protective Security Requirements team and Science New Zealand to produce the [Trusted Research: Guidance for Institutions and Researchers](#).

The University also uses a range of tools and techniques to monitor and prevent inappropriate access or use of our systems and data. Further information regarding these is withheld in accordance with s6(c) of the Act in order to avoid prejudice to the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial; and s9(2)(k) of the Act to prevent the disclosure or use of official information that may be used for improper gain or improper advantage.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of the decisions made regarding this request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact me at [oiarequests@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:oiarequests@vuw.ac.nz).

Ngā mihi nui

Blair Doherty  
Senior Advisor, Official Information and Privacy  
Legal Services  
**Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington**