



**An Roinn Gnóthaí
Eachtracha agus Trádála**
Department of
Foreign Affairs and Trade

Our Ref: FOI/Req/19/283

Date: 21/10/2019

Dear Mr Mahon,

I refer to your recently submitted request for information, made under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2014 and the acknowledgement of said request on 4th October 2019 in which you requested the following:

- 1. Any contracts signed between the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Confucius Institute between 2013 to present in relation to Chinese language and culture provision*
- 2. Any educational materials used in the teaching of such classes*
- 3. Any concerns raised internally in the years 2013 to present that the Confucius institute were giving these classes*
- 4. How much the DFA paid the institute for the provision of such classes*

The Department's response to your request is as follows:

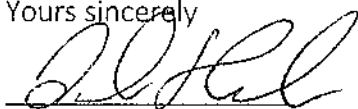
1. The provision of Chinese language and culture tuition is not on a contracted basis. Rather, our officers seek out institutions and courses that best fit their needs and subsequently request sanction from the Training and Development Unit. The T&D Unit is then invoiced directly by the tuition provider. As such, no contracts have been signed between DFAT and Confucius in the period 2013-present.
2. The Department does not cover the cost of educational materials (textbooks, exercise books, CDs, etc.). These are paid for by the individual officers participating in a language class and remain their own personal property. The Department also does not have access to the curricula of individual language providers used by our staff.
3. There are no internal records or concerns about the provision of these classes.
4. The Department's total spend on Chinese language classes provided by the Confucius Institute in the date range outlined is €23,325.00.

Right of Appeal

Should you wish to appeal this decision, you may do so in writing to the Freedom of Information Unit, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 76-78 Harcourt Street, Dublin 2 or by email to foi@dfa.ie. A fee applies for an appeal for access to non-personal information; the level of this fee has been set at €30. For methods of payment, please contact FOI Unit at foi@dfa.ie, or 01-4082857.

You should make your appeal within 4 weeks (20 working days) from the date of this notification. However, the making of a late appeal may be permitted in appropriate circumstances. The appeal will involve a complete reconsideration of the matter by a more senior member of the staff of this Department.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Holmes', written over a horizontal line.

Daragh Holmes
Training and Development Director