

**From:** [O'Connor,D](#)  
**To:** [Wilson,Clive](#); [Kelloway,C](#)  
**Cc:** [Metcalf,F](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Press Inquiry  
**Date:** 16 July 2019 15:14:00

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FYI – Chinese state owned newspaper in Hong Kong is following up on the Tsai PhD issue.

Will just send the statement as below.

Clive, as mentioned, it would be good to have a firmer idea on the timeline of availability for the thesis.

Kind regards,

Danny

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Dear [REDACTED],

Please find below a statement from an LSE spokesperson on this matter.

**LSE spokesperson:**

“The records of the University of London and London School of Economics and Political Science confirm Tsai Ing-Wen was correctly awarded a PhD in Law in 1984.

“All PhDs from that period were awarded via the University of London and would have been sent first to their Senate House Library. It is clear from Senate House Library records that a copy was received. Senate House have confirmed they sent their copy of the thesis to the Institute for Advanced Legal Studies (IALS).

“We have corresponded with the University of London about the thesis and extensive checks have been made. Neither Senate House nor IALS were able to locate a copy of the thesis.

“However, President Tsai Ing-wen has recently provided the LSE Library with a facsimile copy of the thesis, ‘Unfair trade practices and safeguard actions’. This will be available to view in the LSE Library reading room **later this week.**”

/END

**As background**

I have attached a scan of the relevant entry in the LSE Calendar of 1985/86, which acts an official record of awards and degrees given to LSE students in 1984. This confirms Dr Tsai’s PhD award at the time.

Kind regards

Daniel O’Connor

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16 July 2019 15:00  
**To:** O'Connor,D <D.O'Connor@lse.ac.uk>  
**Subject:** Press Inquiry

Dear Mr O'Connor

Our newspaper is trying to make sense of the issue in regard to one LSE alumna Tsai Ing-wen's missing doctoral dissertation entitled *Unfair Trade Practices and Safeguard Actions* from the LSE library. We would like to learn more about LSE's PhD award requirements and protocols.

Reportedly the LSE Library does not have a print copy of Tsai Ing-wen's doctoral dissertation, nor does the Senate House Library, the Institute for Advanced Legal Studies, or the British Library. Apparently LSE does not even have an abstract of Tsai's dissertation.

I should be grateful if you would respond to our concerns and questions by 26th July (Friday).

1. Can LSE confirm whether it has ever had a print copy of Tsai's doctoral dissertation?
2. How many doctoral dissertation print copy missing cases were reported to LSE annually over the past three decades?
3. What mechanism does LSE have to ensure every recipient of University of London PhD as recommended by LSE is qualified?
4. Will LSE look into the matter and review under what circumstances Tsai's PhD was awarded, and verify if the award was valid?
5. Is LSE able to confirm that corruption was not involved in Tsai's case?

Thank you very much.

Kind regards,  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]