

From: [Thomson,MT](#)
To: ["Simeon Underwood"](#)
Subject: RE: In confidence
Date: 25 June 2019 09:11:53
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
Sensitivity: Confidential

Thanks Simeon, that all tallies with what I can make out. I have no doubt that the award was made in line with UoL requirements at the time; and I think there is enough to show that the thesis made its way to Senate House (i.e. because there is a record of it being catalogued), but seems to have been lost when they forwarded it to the Institute for Advanced Legal Studies.

Lots of noise and heat around this one, re: influential LSE alumna, Taiwanese election, political opponents, etc. The play here is to follow regulations and not make any allowances we wouldn't make for any of our graduates.

You may get back to your retirement now.

All best,

MTT

From: Simeon Underwood [mailto:simeon.underwood@outlook.com]
Sent: 25 June 2019 09:05
To: Thomson,MT <M.T.Thomson@lse.ac.uk>
Subject: Re: In confidence
Sensitivity: Confidential

Mark

I have a vague memory of this. My recollection is that it was no big deal. I got the student file from the archive, and then liaised with Senate House (I am not sure whether Susan Johnson had left by that time). All the paperwork was in order -- by contrast to some files I had seen, notably the senior New Zealand civil servant whose claim to have a PhD turned out to be unprovable and possibly fraudulent. I am not sure there are any "workings". If you are in need of anything further, though, I can have a go at looking further, but without much expectation of finding anything. On the missing thesis, I suspect that this is down to Senate House, the Library or both.

Does that help ?

Simeon

From: Thomson,MT <M.T.Thomson@lse.ac.uk>

Sent: 24 June 2019 12:43

To: 'Simeon Underwood'

Subject: In confidence

Simeon, greetings

In confidence, please.

Several years ago, there were some enquiries into the PhD thesis of Ing-Wen Tsai. Apparently you looked into this, and concluded that you were satisfied that – on the basis of the available evidence – all proper UoL procedures for the award of a PhD degree were followed, despite neither the LSE nor UoL being able to locate a copy of the thesis.

A few weeks ago Ing-Wen won the nomination process to lead her party in the upcoming Taiwanese elections. This has precipitated a deluge of enquiries from interested parties into the details of her thesis.

We are playing this one very much with a straight bat, and are replying consistently along the lines of “the award was made in accordance with UoL procedures at the time; neither LSE nor Senate House can locate a copy; thank you”.

Everything is in hand, though if you happened to still have your ‘workings’ from the review you conducted at the time, I would be very happy to have sight of it.

All best,

MTT

PS. Before I sent this note I had a quick search through the electronic files you left me, and felt deep waves of nostalgia upon unearthing the ‘CPT Bulletin 3’ from 2002!

Mark Thomson

Academic Registrar, Academic Registrar’s Division

The London School of Economics and Political Science

Houghton Street, London WC2A 2AE

t: +44 (0)20 7955 6114

e: m.t.thomson@lse.ac.uk

lse.ac.uk



[LSE is ranked #1 in Europe for social sciences \(QS World University Ranking 2018\)](#)