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| 1 | 3. 2011 and 2015 Investigations |
| 2 | 3.1 Date of PhD Award |
| 3 | A report based on the records disclosed under the UK Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) |
| 4 | On September 4, 2019, Tsai filed a criminal defamation complaint with the Taiwan Taipei District Prosecutors Office.  Her Office posted three documents found in Tsai’s LSE student file on Facebook, |
| https://www.facebook.com/presidentialoffice.tw/photos/pcb. 2429761177247604/2429760790580976/ |
| 5 | including a copy of Tsai’s LSE student record, |
| Id. |
| 6 | a copy of the viva result notification letter issued on February 8, 1984, |
| Id. |
| 7 | and a copy of the original PhD diploma issued on March 14, 1984. |
| Id. |
| 8 | On September 14, 2020, a FOIA request was submitted to U.O.L. requesting the records of supplying those three documents to Tsai.  The request resulted in the Decision Notice issued by ICO on September 3, 2021. |
| https://ico.org.uk/media/action-weve-taken/decision-notices/2021/4018304/ic-83994-c7z4.pdf |
| 9 | The FOIA request was made to request multiple records.  The Decision Notice identified the request relating to those three documents disclosed on Facebook by Tsai’s Office as element [5]. |
| Id at p. 4. |
| 10 | The Commissioner’s view about element [5] was provided from Paragraphs 59 to 63 of the Decision Notice. |
| Id at p. 12. |
| 11 | Though LSE is one of 17 federation members of U.O.L., LSE and U.O.L. are two separate legal entities.  The Information Commissioner found that U.O.L. was not involved in supplying Tsai’s LSE student record because it was an LSE record, not a U.O.L. record. |
| Id, paragraph 59. |
| 12 | As for the viva result notification letter dated February 8, 1984, the Commissioner found that it had never been retained in Tsai’s U.O.L. student file. |
| Id. |
| 13 | The viva result notification letter was triggered by submission of at least two final hardbound copies to the Senate House. |
| RE: Inquire from Taipei Representative Office--Education Division |
| 14 | The Commissioner’s finding is consistent with U.O.L.’s admission on January 11, 2022.  Since no physical copy of Tsai’s doctoral thesis was received into the University in 1984, the viva result notification letter was not triggered in 1984. |
| [The publication date of Tsai Ing-Wen's PhD thesis which was held by Senate House Library? - a Freedom of Information request to University of London - WhatDoTheyKnow](https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/the_publication_date_of_tsai_ing#incoming-1949227) |
| 15 | U.O.L. sent no copy of Tsai’s viva result notification letter to LSE to confirm the award of a PhD degree to Tsai in February 8, 1984. |
| 16 | Tsai’s viva result notification letter found in Tsai’s LSE student file was not sent from U.O.L. |
| 17 | Where did it come from? |
| 18 | As for Tsai’s PhD diploma, the Commissioner found that U.O.L. did not retain hard copies of students’ certificates – only the record showing who achieved what qualification. |
| Id. |
| 19 | According to the official website of U.O.L. Transcripts Office,  only one degree-certificate is issued to each student and U.O.L. does not hold copies. |
| 20 | Therefore, it is U.O.L.’s policy that no copy of students’ diplomas is retained by U.O.L.  The policy explains why U.O.L. sent a copy of the viva result notification letter to LSE as notification of the award of a particular student instead of a copy of the PhD diploma in the early 1980s. |
| 21 | Since U.O.L. does not retain hard copies of students’ diplomas, Tsai is the only one who has her original PhD diploma.  She is also the sole source of all photocopies of her original PhD diploma. |
| 22 | including the copy of her PhD diploma provided by LSE and disclosed by Tsai’s Office on Facebook on September 4, 2019. |
| 23 | U.O.L. confirmed to the Commissioner that it had carried out searches of both its paper and electronic files.  It was not aware of any relevant documents that had been destroyed. |
| Id, paragraph 60. |
| 24 | The Commissioner ordered U.O.L. to provide other requested records.  The provided records are those five files disclosed by U.O.L. on the WhatDoTheyKnow.com official website on February 23, 2021. |
| https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/about\_ico\_commissioners\_decision |
| 25 | The first file is an email chain created during the investigation of Tsai’s non-existing doctoral thesis in 2011 and 2015.  The first email in the first file was sent from the Research Degree Examinations office of the Senate House at U.O.L. on July 19, 2011, at 17:27. |
| https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/792874/response/1980587/attach/2/Withheld%20information%20A%20Redacted.pdf?cookie\_passthrough=1 |
| 26 | According to this email, in 2011, the Research Degree Examinations office had Tsai’s old student file out of the archives and it indicated that Tsai was awarded in February 1984. |
| https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/792874/response/1980587/attach/2/Withheld%20information%20A%20Redacted.pdf?cookie\_passthrough=1 |
| 27 | As established, the viva result notification letter was issued before formal conferment and the PhD diploma was issued after the formal conferment.  The official date of PhD award is the date born on the PhD diploma. |
| 28 | For Tsai, it was March 14, 1984, not February 1984. |
| 29 | Tsai’s viva result notification letter was issued on February 8, 1984, but it was not retained in Tsai’s U.O.L. student file. |
| 30 | How did the Research Degree Examinations office at U.O.L. find that Tsai was awarded in February 1984? |
| 31 | Voice generated by FreeTTS  To be continued… |

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