

## FOI Ref: 1104-18: Digest of information

This digest contains information relevant to the FOI request. Some files have been redacted to remove issues beyond what is in scope of the request.

### Email chain 1

**From:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**Date:** 9 October 2018 at 05:03:54 GMT-4

**Subject:** Mt. Paektu research project

**To:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**Cc:** Alastair Morgan, [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

Dear [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

I hope you are both well. I met with Alastair Morgan in Pyongyang a couple of weeks ago and discussed the next steps for our research project on Mt. Paektu. He suggested I contact you both and James Squire who I understand is joining the Korea team to discuss our research projects on Mt. Paektu and plans for the future. If that is of interest, we would like to invite you (and anyone else from the FCO or other government departments) to visit us at Birkbeck College or if easier, we would be happy to come to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

In summary, there are two related projects we are pursuing:

1. We are currently planning more ambitious projects including cross-border (China-DPRK) collaboration to study the volcano. We are actively seeking funds and have a proposal submitted to the Natural Environmental Research Council and our colleagues in China have successfully received funding from the National Science Foundation China. [REDACTED – S27 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS] This reflects the significant support we have had from the FCO and you (and [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]) in particular in helping us navigate the sanctions and liaising with the 1718 committee at the UN.

[REDACTED – S27 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS] We would welcome the chance to discuss any thoughts you may have on potential sources of funding to support this.

2. The second theme we are pursuing is in helping foster more regional scientific collaboration with DPRK. Since the recent summits on the Korean Peninsula we have been in discussion with scientists and government from the Republic of Korea about how we can help foster scientific engagement on the Korean Peninsula. We have been asked to help facilitate a meeting to explore themes for future collaboration. We are currently organising a small 2-day workshop to be held in Singapore in November on the theme of volcanism on the Korean Peninsula. We hope new inter-Korean collaborations will develop from this.

We would be happy to provide more details on both these aspects and would welcome your thoughts on this.

Thank you again for your continued support,

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

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**Email chain 2**

**From:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**Sent:** 14 August 2018 10:59

**To:** Alastair Morgan [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**Subject:** RE: Mt Paektu science project – [REDACTED S27 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS]

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

Your advice was spot on. There's no appetite at this point to support collaboration with HMG funding. [REDACTED S27 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS]

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**From:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**Sent:** 14 August 2018 10:46

**To:** Alastair Morgan [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**Subject:** RE: Mt Paektu science project – [REDACTED S27 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS]

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

Would be grateful for the chance to discuss this before any reply made back to [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION] (who's the lead in London, as [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION] was looking at this last time round?) I may have missed it, if so apologies, but was there a record from Seoul of [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION] meeting with you there, [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

My understanding is that we're generally supportive of the project and the regional collaboration, and have told [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION] that we'd review our obligations regarding 1718 Committee clearance for the UK collaboration end on receipt of fuller details of the new project proposal. But that we're still in pressure not engage mode. So on supporting with funds – particularly funding a portion of the project which

meets DPRK participant costs travelling to the UK – I can't see that we would be able to offer anything. Grateful for others' views.

With thanks

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION] British Embassy, Munsu-dong, Pyongyang

**From:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**Sent:** 13 August 2018 17:09

**To:** Alastair Morgan [REDACTED – FCO OFFICIAL]

**Subject:** Mt Paektu science project – [REDACTED – S27 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS]

Dear all,

It was a pleasure to meet with [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION] in Seoul in June where I was happy to describe recent developments on our Mt. Paektu project.

[REDACTED – S27 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS]

We are planning to host this in Singapore (at the Earth Observatory Singapore) at the end of October/beginning of November.

I would welcome your thoughts on this and would be happy to discuss any questions or comments further, either on the phone or in person.

Kind regards

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

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**Email chain 3**

**From:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**Sent:** 18 September 2018 09:04

**To:** Alastair Morgan

**Cc:** DL Beijing ECM [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**Subject:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

Alastair, [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

Thank you for following up.

I was in touch yesterday with [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION].

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION] has been in contact with [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION] for more detail of the course content to see whether it might nonetheless give rise to some concerns.

We will then as you say need to consider what if any action might be needed in this case, and what implications there might be for handling and communication around future cases.

I'll keep you both posted – apologies for not having done so yesterday.

Best

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**From:** Alastair Morgan

**Sent:** 18 September 2018 08:49

**To:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**Cc:** DL Beijing ECM [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**Subject:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

While I have no wish to cause any unnecessary difficulty for [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]. I suppose those questions should be answered definitively in London – which might or might not then require some additional step to be taken.

Once procedures for future cases have been reviewed we will certainly want to brief [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]. My experience is that they try to follow procedures meticulously, whether they agree with them or not – though they have sometimes ask up front for special arrangements which we are unable to provide.

Alastair

**Alastair Morgan** | Ambassador | British Embassy Pyongyang | Munsudong | Pyongyang |

**From:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**Sent:** 18 September 2018 16:18

**To:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION] Alastair Morgan

**Cc:** DL Beijing ECM [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**Subject:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

Regards

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**On 15 September 2018 at 18:43:21 GMT+8, [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION] wrote:**

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

It may be an option to ask the University for the reference to confirm?

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

Regards

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**On 15 September 2018 at 17:58:31 GMT+8, [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION] wrote:**

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

Thanks. Apologies again for not having picked this up earlier in the process.

Has the institution erred in not making clear to [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION] I'd like to be clear on the position before making contact with [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION], if that proves to be necessary.

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**From:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**Sent:** 15 September 2018 08:35

**To:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]; Alastair Morgan; [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**Cc:** DL Beijing ECM; [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**Subject:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

Just to follow up on this, in case it is needed, I have attached the offer letter from the [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION], which gives details of the proposed study and the contact details of the [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]. The letters for all three are identical. The contact details for the organiser in the DPRK are as follows:

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

The response received from [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION] indicated that appropriate teams had been informed and that the team here could proceed in line with the relevant immigration rules. [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

Regards

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**From:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**Sent:** 15 September 2018 13:34

**To:** Alastair Morgan [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**Cc:** DL Beijing ECM [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**Subject:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

Just picked this up from [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION] inbox as she is away.

I have checked on the applications. Following the response from VRU on [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

I am available on the mobile number below or via my sensitive account, copied above, if needed.

Regards

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

Visas and Immigration Service 签证及移民服务

Home Office 内政部

British Embassy, Beijing, PR China 英国驻华大使馆

**From:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]  
**Sent:** 14 September 2018 21:27  
**To:** Alastair Morgan, [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]  
**Cc:** DL Beijing ECM [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]  
**Subject:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

Alastair

I will. And yes, we (I) should have picked this up at the time. [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION] first e-mail came in when I was away.

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**From:** Alastair Morgan (Sensitive)  
**Sent:** 14 September 2018 14:25  
**To:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]  
**Subject:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

Can you make sure the Beijing visa section are copied in if they have not been already. As you know, we do not process here. [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

Perhaps, for the future, we should also review the alert procedures? Thanks.

Alastair

**From:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]  
**Sent:** 14 September 2018 13:35  
**To:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]  
**Subject:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**From:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]  
**Sent:** 14 September 2018 13:34  
**To:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]  
**Subject:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**From:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]  
**Sent:** 14 September 2018 13:28  
**To:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]  
**Subject:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**From:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]  
**Sent:** 14 September 2018 09:40  
**To:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]  
**Subject:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**From:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]  
**Sent:** 14 September 2018 09:33  
**To:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]  
**Subject:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]. [OUT OF SCOPE]

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**On 14 September 2018 at 09:20:19 BST, [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION] wrote:**

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

See below – visa applications from [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

As Alastair suggests, I presume there should be some kind of vetting process [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION] I can do some digging, unless you can point me in the right direction.

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION] – is this something we would need to notify?  
[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**From:** Alastair Morgan (Sensitive)  
**Sent:** 12 September 2018 02:10  
**To:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]  
**Subject:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

I am not sure who if anyone vets courses of study to check that there is nothing of concern  
[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

Also not clear whether the scientific collaboration notification requirement applies to taking students.

Alastair

[Alastair Morgan](#) | Ambassador | British Embassy Pyongyang | Munsudong | Pyongyang |

**From:** Special Cases General Enquiries  
**Sent:** 11 September 2018 17:20  
**To:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION] DL Pyongyang - All Users  
**Subject:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

Hi,

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION] and others

Thanks very much for the email.

As I understand SCU do not make any sort of decision regarding visitors from DPRK. We forward the information on to OGD to make them aware.

Also please see the response from [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION] below.

Kind regards

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**From:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]  
**Sent:** 11 September 2018 08:33  
**To:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]  
**Subject:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

DPRK are only Issue and Refer for VRU so we will not provide a response. Please could you advise [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION] as to whether post can proceed?

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**From:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]  
**Sent:** 11 September 2018 06:48  
**To:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]  
**Subject:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]  
**Importance:** High

Dear Colleagues,

Please can I check if there was a reply to the email below in order for UKVI colleagues in Beijing (copied here) to proceed.

Thank you

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]  
British Embassy Pyongyang | Munsudong | Pyongyang |  
Visit our website at [www.gov.uk/government/world/north-korea](http://www.gov.uk/government/world/north-korea)

**From:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]  
**Sent:** 10 August 2018 12:08  
**To:** VRU (homeoffice) [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]  
**Subject:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

Dear Colleagues,

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

Please let me know if you need anything else.

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]  
British Embassy Pyongyang | Munsudong | Pyongyang |  
Visit our website at [www.gov.uk/government/world/north-korea](http://www.gov.uk/government/world/north-korea)

**From:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]  
**Sent:** 21 September 2018 08:35

**To:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**Subject:** RE: Update/handover

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

An update below on things in case they come up:

[REDACTED – FCO OFFICIAL] – to capture status of actions below.

[OUT OF SCOPE]

### Visas

- The [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION] have thrown up some questions about alerts for [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]. Let's discuss on your return (no specific error here, but to look out in future).

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

[OUT OF SCOPE]

Thank you

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

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### Email chain 4

**From:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**Sent:** 18 September 2018 04:21

**To:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**Cc:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**Subject:** DPRK Readout: Pyongyang Institute of Science and Technology (PUST) 14/09/2018

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

I visited Pyongyang Institute of Science and Technology ([PUST](#)) on 14 September along with colleagues from the German and Swedish Embassies. We were shown around parts of the campus and were accompanied by a number of international teachers, including several Brits.

[OUT OF SCOPE]

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION] The five minute presentation we were shown included a photo of [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION] who had studied at [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]. I was asked why students could not have their biometrics taken in Pyongyang. (Comment: Our position was well known and understood [REDACTED – S27 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS]).

[OUT OF SCOPE]

Best,

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

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**Email chain 5**

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

Sent: 01 October 2018 05:43

To: [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

Cc: [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION] Alastair Morgan

Subject: RE: scholarships for DPRK students

Dear [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

Thanks for your e-mail.

The simple answer is no, we do not give any direct scholarship support from UK government funds (including the British Council) to students from the DPRK at present. We don't have plans to restart cultural/educational engagement or student scholarship support at the moment, whilst sanctions pressure is still in full force on DPRK and there has been no concrete progress on denuclearisation. We will keep monitoring progress in the negotiations.

In the past we have sent Chevening scholars (a 1yr Master's scholarship) from DPRK to the UK, in very small numbers, but this has been stopped for a few years not only because of the current political circumstances, but because last time we tried to run the programme the DPRK pulled out the nominated students at the last minute, and also because DPRK conditions meant that the process here did not comply with our global criteria for selecting students and UK universities which we use in every other country for this scholarship programme.

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION] but the UK government has had no involvement (this is a direct link between PUST teachers and a UK University) except to process visas. Any student visa applications have to go through all the relevant sanctions as

well as immigration considerations, so to bear that in mind if you are considering sponsoring any students.

Hope that's helpful.  
Regards,

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION] British Embassy, Munsu-dong, Pyongyang

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]  
Sent: 27 September 2018 17:41  
To: [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]  
Subject: scholarships for DPRK students

Dear [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

[REDACTED – S27 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS].

Is the UK government, or the British Council, or any other UK institution, currently giving scholarships to DPRK students, or planning to do so in the near future?

If yes, for how many people, for how long, where and for what subjects?

Thank you and best regards

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

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**Email chain 6**

**From:** Alastair Morgan  
**Sent:** 07 May 2018 03:31  
**To:** Sarah Hulton  
**Cc:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]; Colin Crooks; Simon Smith  
**Subject:** DPRK: Global Britain OFFICIAL\_SENSITIVE

Sarah,

[OUT OF SCOPE]

In addition to trade and investment opportunities, there would potentially be opportunities for education partnership. (You may have seen reports last week that following the DPRK-China meetings a delegation from Kim Il Sung and Kim Chaek Universities will be attending

the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Peking University - if I remember the elements correctly.) There is certainly likely to be interest by the DPRK in British universities [REDACTED S27 – INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS].

I am already being asked by some members of the international community whether the British Council programme – which is nominally “suspended”, but for which there is no longer any financial provision – is likely to resume if the situation continues to improve. My personal view is that it is not. It was an anomaly for HMG / British Council to fund British Council teaching programme and I suspect that the appetite to re-launch on the same basis – as opposed to some commercial basis which is unlikely to be achievable - is no longer there. But that is just a personal view, others might well want to argue differently.

Alastair

**Alastair Morgan** | Ambassador | British Embassy Pyongyang | Munsudong | Pyongyang |  
[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

<https://www.gov.uk/government/world/north-korea>

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## **Email chain 7**

**From:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**Sent:** 13 August 2018 09:30

**To:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**Cc:** DL DPRK Core FCO Team; DL DPRK Whitehall and Posts Working Group

**Subject:** DPRK: Meeting with [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

### **Summary**

First meeting with [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]. [OUT OF SCOPE] MFA requests return of English language training; no commitments made.

### **Detail**

[OUT OF SCOPE]

### **Bilateral Relations**

[OUT OF SCOPE]

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION] asked when English language instruction would begin again, and what possibility for re-starting study programmes for DPRK officials

to the UK. You noted that we had been proud of our British Council programmes in DPRK, which had been the longest-running programme of its kind. We pulled it due to the change in travel advice, informed by our concerns for the safety of our citizens in DPRK. There were some legacy materials destined for educational centres in DPRK which would be distributed shortly (Comment: you will follow up with the Commission for Education, having met with British Council in London last week), but there was no appetite in London for the resumption of these programmes, including residential language programmes for DPRK nationals in the UK (as attended by [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]), unless the geopolitical situation improved.

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**British Embassy Pyongyang** 주소영국대사관 Munsu Dong, Pyongyang, DPRK

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**Email chain 8**

**From:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**Sent:** Wed 06/06/2018 12:17

**To:** Alastair Morgan

**Subject:** 2018 05 31 DPRK: EU HOMs - pol developments & EU role/engagement

Alastair, [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

I met [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]. was keen to emphasise that they took careful note of UK Travel Advice, had not come back to teach in the autumn after the change in level, and had only come back on this short visit rather than for the full term in order to close up their affairs. But despite their formal teaching role coming to an end, they hoped to continue their liaison with PUST via [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION], and in supporting greater coordination between PUST and Pyongyang hospitals. And to be invited back to the opening of the PUST medical faculty when eventually completed – they had been here for the groundbreaking.

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION] has some medical artificial intelligence background, but has not done any teaching on this at PUST for the last few years given understandable sensitivities, instead focusing on clinical lab work. He is also professor emeritus at the [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION], who are keen to engage on

DPRK academic exchange. There was a plan to send some DPRK students last year, but this was pulled, I understand by the DPRK side. This year, plans are underway to [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION] The funding has been provided by an (undisclosed to me) Asian donor, and so the students are applying for DPRK passports, and we can expect to see visa applications in due course.

### **Lab facilities & equipment**

On the lab facilities, [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION] explained that pre-sanctions, he had been involved in bringing in machines and accompanying liquid and dry reagents for blood and urine screening. Other facilities in DPRK (eg the Friendship Hospital and Kim Man Yu (sp?) university hospital) did not have the same high spec screening machines, so he has been trying to explore scope for improving inter-institutional coordination on collection and testing of samples, to improve patient access and accuracy of diagnosis. Last week they had been able to install one machine brought in pre-sanctions. But currently the sanctions restrictions precluded the import of either new machines or further supplies of reagents, so all was on hold.

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION] did comment that the US teaching setup at PUST was high-tech heavy, so it was not sustainable in US teacher absence or under current sanctions – nor for replication outside of Pyongyang where medical and teaching facilities are simply not of the same standard. He believes though that lower-tech capacity building of medical personnel in clinical diagnosis skills and basic testing/screening would be less costly and bear increased practical results in terms of diagnosis and lives saved, so is looking to focus on this area.

Thanks

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION] British Embassy, Munsu-dong, Pyongyang

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### **Email chain 9**

**From:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**Sent:** 06 March 2018 09:46

**To:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**Cc:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**Subject:** RE: For action by 7 March: Consulting on Directorates Strategic Priorities for Chevening Programme for 2018-19

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

I gave [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION] an outline last week on Chevening, but here's some detailed background on recent work we undertook below:

Despite [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION] commendable efforts to identify (and start the process for) two suitable candidates for the 2016/17 scholarship programme, the DPRK disappointingly pulled both candidates in the final stages. Both [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION] warned the North Koreans that there were no guarantees that these scholarships could be offered in future years.

Chevening Scholarship programme had, up until 2016/17, allocated annual funds for two scholarships from the DPRK. Unfortunately between 2104 and 2017 the DPRK government were unable to take up these scholarships (I can give you more background on this, if needed) and the funds weren't used.

Up until I left Pyongyang [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION] there was no formal notification from Chevening as to whether or not they would allocate funds for the academic year 2017/18 or whether they were cancelling the programme for the DPRK.

Hope this is useful – happy to discuss further, if helpful.

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

DPRK Department, Asia Pacific Directorate, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, King Charles Street, London SW1A 2AH

**From:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**Sent:** 06 March 2018 03:55

**To:** REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**Cc:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**Subject:** RE: For action by 7 March: Consulting on Directorates Strategic Priorities for Chevening Programme for 2018-19

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

We have had Chevening allocations before, but our last selection happened in 2016, when the scholars withdrew after course arrangements had been made and didn't take up their places. So we've not pursued scholarships since then, initially for that reason rather than other political/bilateral considerations, as I understand it. A strategic discussion/decision on a DPRK Chevening approach for the future would be timely.

I didn't see the spreadsheet attachment, so can't tell whether the £43k allocation you're talking about was for 2017/18 or a new indicative allocation for 2018/19.

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION] was our Chevening Officer. [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION] has not had any substantive action on this in his time here, to my knowledge.

Thanks

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**From:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**Sent:** 05 March 2018 22:39

**To:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**Subject:** FW: For action by 7 March: Consulting on Directorates Strategic Priorities for Chevening Programme for 2018-19

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

FYI concerning Chevening. We expect that this money was allocated to you but of course never used. We will return to the centre (sorry you can't have it for other commitments!) There may be some outstanding work with you to ensure its recorded correctly. Can you review just in case and let me know tomorrow if there are any outstanding actions so that we can meet the APD deadline.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION] [DPRK Department](#) | [Room W3.81](#) | [Asia Pacific Directorate](#) | Foreign and Commonwealth Office | King Charles Street | London SW1A 2AH

**From:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**Sent:** 01 March 2018 16:58

**To:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**Subject:** RE: For action by 7 March: Consulting on Directorates Strategic Priorities for Chevening Programme for 2018-1

How strange. [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION] may be better placed than I to comment. I'm not sure how we could possibly have/had an allocation. No hits from my search of the shared area.

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**From:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**Sent:** 01 March 2018 16:37

**To:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**Subject:** FW: For action by 7 March: Consulting on Directorates Strategic Priorities for Chevening Programme for 2018-19

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION] – can you elucidate?

**From:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**Sent:** 01 March 2018 16:28

**To:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**Cc:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**Subject:** RE: For action by 7 March: Consulting on Directorates Strategic Priorities for Chevening Programme for 2018-19

I would expect that ... but the spreadsheet shows a £43,000 allocation to DPRK. If it has been suspended, does that mean the funds are available for us to reallocate elsewhere?

John

John Virgoe  
Head, South-East Asia and Pacific Department  
Foreign & Commonwealth Office | Room K3.09 |

**From:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**Sent:** 01 March 2018 16:18

**To:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**Cc:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**Subject:** RE: For action by 7 March: Consulting on Directorates Strategic Priorities for Chevening Programme for 2018-19

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION] – as you would expect, there is no Chevening scholarship programme in DPRK.

Thanks,

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION] Asia Pacific Directorate | W3.81 Foreign and Commonwealth Office | King Charles Street

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**Email chain 10**

**From:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**Sent:** 15 February 2018 11:45

**To:** Alastair Morgan

**Cc:** [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION]

**Subject:** 2018 02 15 DPRK: Meeting with Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries

Alastair

I called on the CCRFC this morning. [OUT OF SCOPE]

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION] said that with the UK's cultural and scientific strengths [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION] believed there was lots of scope for collaboration and hoped we could find a way to engage during my posting here.

[OUT OF SCOPE]

There were lots of activities planned for this 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year – eg the Book Fair and also in September, an International Academic Seminar at Kim Chaek Industrial University in which international universities were being invited to participate. He hoped the British Embassy could act as a bridge for UK participation? I made no commitment: I countered that whilst [REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION] said things had changed this year, the UK saw no shift in the DPRK's approach to pursuing a nuclear and missile programme, and so in the current situation we were unable to offer support for cultural activities and exchanges.

[OUT OF SCOPE]

Thanks,

[REDACTED – S40 PERSONAL INFORMATION] British Embassy, Munsu-dong, Pyongyang

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