

Prof. John Raftery
Vice-Chancellor
University of Wolverhampton
Wulfruna Street
Wolverhampton
WV1 1LY

Mr Ranil Wickramasinghe, President of Sri Lanka
And Professor Maithree Wickramasinghe, First Lady of Sri Lanka
C/O High Commission of Sri Lanka, London
No. 13 Hyde Park Gardens
London
W2 2LU

Friday 1st September 2023

*Graduation luncheon invitation for
Mr Ranil Wickramasinghe, President of Sri Lanka
And Professor Maithree Wickramasinghe, First Lady of Sri Lanka*

Dear Mr Wickramasinghe and Prof. Wickramasinghe

On behalf of the University of Wolverhampton's Chancellor, the Rt Hon Lord Swraj Paul of Marylebone, PC, The Board of Governors and the Academic Board, I am delighted to invite you to join the University for a special graduation luncheon on Friday 22nd of September 2023, at our Wolverhampton Campus.

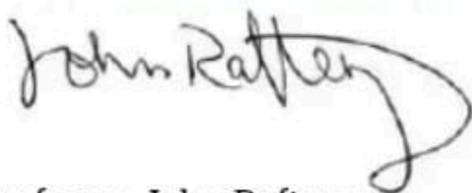
This luncheon is part of the celebrations of Prof. Wickramasinghe's Honorary Professorship, and will take place in the build up to the graduation ceremony itself.

The graduation ceremony will commence at 14:30 in Wolverhampton, and we would be delighted if you are able to join us for the graduation luncheon, commencing at 12:00.

If you are able to join Lord Paul for this celebratory day, please contact Terry Gibson, Head of Alumni & Development, by emailing T.Gibson@wlv.ac.uk or calling 07976 882 910.

We hope you can join us for this special luncheon as part of the celebrations.

Yours sincerely,



Professor John Raftery
Vice-Chancellor, University of Wolverhampton

University of Wolverhampton
Office of the University Secretary
Wulfruna Building
Wulfruna Street
Wolverhampton
WV1 1LY

T. +44 (0)1902 321000 (Switchboard)

Ref: FOI-18-26

By email: request-1395387-57cab3be@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Ms Herath

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REF: FOI-18-26

I refer to your Freedom of Information request for information received by the University of Wolverhampton on 30 January 2026.

The decision with respect to your request for information is found in the attached Decision Notice.

If you are dissatisfied with our response, please contact us with the details of your dispute via email at FOI@wlv.ac.uk and we will conduct an internal review of our response.

If you are still dissatisfied with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right of complaint to the Information Commissioner at the following address: <https://ico.org.uk/>

Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Sophie Esson
Information Rights Manager
27 February 2026

SUMMARY	
APPLICANT	Ms Oshala Herath
REF NUMBER	FOI-18-26
SCOPE	Authentication of a letter sent by the University of Wolverhampton
DECISION MAKER	Sophie Esson
DECISION DATE	27 February 2026

Decision

I, Sophie Esson Information Rights Manager, dealt with your request for information received by the University of Wolverhampton (University) in accordance with the *Freedom of Information Act 2000* (FOIA).

I can confirm that the requested information is held by the University of Wolverhampton in full.

I have decided to disclose the requested information in full.

Please refer to the subsequent pages of this Decision Notice for further clarification on my decision.

Sophie Esson
 Information Rights Manager
 27 February 2026

Background & Scope of Application

On 30 January 2026, the University of Wolverhampton received Ms Oshala Herath's FOI application, requesting the following:

I am writing to formally request verification regarding the authenticity of a letter currently in my possession, purportedly issued by the University of Wolverhampton (copy attached).

The document, dated Friday, 1st September 2023, is addressed to Mr. Ranil Wickramasinghe (President of Sri Lanka) and Professor Maithree Wickramasinghe. It is signed by Professor John Raftery, Vice-Chancellor, and extends an invitation to a graduation luncheon on Friday, 22nd September 2023.

To ensure the accuracy of my records, I would appreciate your clarification on the following points:

1. **Authenticity of Content:** Can the University confirm that this specific letter and its contents are genuine and were officially issued by your office?
2. **Official Invitation Status:** Was the invitation to Mr. Ranil Wickramasinghe extended to him in his official capacity as the Head of State of Sri Lanka?
3. **Communication Channel:** Was this invitation facilitated or delivered through the Sri Lankan High Commission in London, or was it sent as a personal communication directly to the recipients?
4. **Guest Designation:** Was Mr. Ranil Wickramasinghe considered an ordinary guest (attending as a spouse/family member) or a special guest of the University for the purpose of this event?
5. **Honorary Award:** Can you confirm that the University conferred an Honorary Professorship upon Professor Maithree Wickramasinghe during the September 2023 graduation period?

Search for Documents

Based on the original scope of this request, I conducted a search of the University of Wolverhampton's records to determine whether the requested information can be provided to Ms Oshala Herath in response to the original application, dated 30 January 2026.

Decision

In accordance with Section 1(1)(a) of the FOIA, I can confirm that the requested information is held by the University of Wolverhampton in full.

I have decided to disclose the requested information in full.

Please find the requested information contained within Schedule 1 below.

Right of Review

If you are dissatisfied with our response, please contact us with the details of your dispute via email at FOI@wlv.ac.uk and we will conduct an internal review of our response.

If you are still dissatisfied with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right of

complaint to the Information Commissioner at the following address: <https://ico.org.uk/>

Oshala Herath

Schedule 1

1. Authenticity of Content: Can the University confirm that this specific letter and its contents are genuine and were officially issued by your office?

We can confirm this matches the document we hold in our records

2. Official Invitation Status: Was the invitation to Mr. Ranil Wickramasinghe extended to him in his official capacity as the Head of State of Sri Lanka?

This information is captured in the invitation letter attached to your application.

3. Communication Channel: Was this invitation facilitated or delivered through the Sri Lankan High Commission in London, or was it sent as a personal communication directly to the recipients?

The address is contained in the invitation letter attached to your application.

4. Guest Designation: Was Mr. Ranil Wickramasinghe considered an ordinary guest (attending as a spouse/family member) or a special guest of the University for the purpose of this event?

The information is contained in the invitation letter attached to your application.

5. Honorary Award: Can you confirm that the University conferred an Honorary Professorship upon Professor Maithree Wickramasinghe during the September 2023 graduation period?

The information is contained in the invitation letter attached to your application.