

GSK-linked investigators will not appeal jail term

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Singapore: British corporate investigator Mr Peter Humphrey and his American wife Ms Yu Yingzeng have decided to accept the jail sentence handed out to them by a Shanghai court in China, their lawyer declared.

Accepting China's jail term, the investigators linked to large British drug maker GlaxoSmithKline have told their lawyers that they accept the two-and-a-half and two year jail term respectively.

"All the lawyers have met with the couple and they said they don't want to appeal," Mr Humphrey's defending lawyer Mr Zhai Jian said in a media statement.

Mr Humphrey was sentenced to two-and-a-half years in jail in the first week of August while Ms Yu was sentenced to two years in jail. The ChinaWhys couple were charged with illegally obtaining private records of Chinese citizens and selling the information. The couple were said to have been brought in by GSK to investigate the origin of an internally circulated sex tape involving China GSK's former head Mr Mark Reilly.

After the GlaxoSmithKline corruption, bribery and sexual favors scandal broke out last year, the corporate investigators from ChinaWhys too were detained following their involvement. Their involvement in the scandal is the center of a different government corruption investigation involving hundreds of millions of dollars, a report added.

Mr Humphrey who stood in China's much-hyped public trial was sentenced to two-and-a-half years in prison, along with a fine of £20,000 and subsequent deportation from China. Ms Yu, on the other hand was sentenced to two years in prison and a £15,000 fine. The couple have both already served one year of their sentence while awaiting trial.

The court indicted that ChinaWhys had trafficked 256 pieces of personal information between 2009 and 2013.

Meanwhile, GSK continues to face allegations that they paid as much as £320 million in bribes to doctors and officials to boost sales of products in the country.