

### 23-01 – Teaching staff who are paid on an hourly rate and the average rate

Under the Freedom of Information Act, please can you send:

The number of teaching staff at Downing College who are paid on an hourly rate.  
The average hourly rate paid by Downing College to its hourly-paid teaching staff.

#### Response

Thank you for your FoI request to Downing College concerning teaching staff paid at an hourly rate.

The vast majority of teaching in Downing, in the form of supervision teaching, is not remunerated at an hourly rate but incorporated as part of the College Teaching Officers duties (if appropriate) or remunerated per delivered supervision in other cases.

However, since 2018, there have been 28 members of teaching staff submitting claims for some very limited activities such as mock examination question setting, marking and providing subsequent feedback to students, which is expressed as an hourly rate. The average rate paid to these staff since 2018 was £30.78 per hour. Please note, the College uses the 1:1 intercollegiate re-charge rate for supervisions within the relevant academic year to pay staff for undertaking these teaching activities.

### 23-02 – NDAs as part of sexual assault settlements

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the following information:

- Whether or not the college uses NDAs as part of sexual assault settlements?
- How many NDAs have been used over the past 10 years within the college?
- If this data is available, a demographic breakdown on the gender and ethnicity of the complainant within the settlement agreement.

#### Response

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request to Downing College concerning non-disclosure agreements as part of sexual assault settlements. Please note, we do not write non-disclosure agreements but on occasion we have negotiated individual settlement agreements; however, we are not aware of any such agreements concerning a sexual assault over the past 10 years.

### 23-03 – Chinese student applicants for Mathematics

As a student applying to Cambridge with a future major in mathematics, I would like to analyze the application results of mathematics in different colleges to help me choose a college. However, I have found that the data on the official website is not very specific, as it doesn't include information about the nationalities of people who are accepted into mathematics. This makes the data less representative for me, a Chinese student. That's why I ask for the data of Chinese students who apply for mathematics. It is acceptable for me not to collect the data, but it would be better for me to provide it.

I hope that the data provided will include the following information from 2013 to 2023:

1. The number of Chinese applicants for mathematics
2. The number of offers received by Chinese applicants (including the winter pool)
3. The number of Chinese applicants accepted.

## Response

Thank you for your request for information concerning Chinese students applying to study Mathematics at Downing College, which we are dealing with under the Freedom of Information Act.

Please see the following table which covers the period 2013 to 2022 (we don't have data for the current round) for Chinese applicants which I hope is of interest.

Year	Number of Applicants	Number of Offers	Number Accepted	Notes
2013	2	0	0	
2014	1	1	1	
2015	3	0	0	
2016	2	0	0	
2017	1	2	2	Offers made to applicants taken from the Pool
2018	4	1	1	Offer made to applicant from the Pool
2019	5	2	2	
2020	6	1	1	
2021	5	2	1	Offers made to applicants taken from the Pool
2022	0	0	0	

## 23-04 – Student rent and meal data since 2012

We would like to investigate trends in college accommodation rent grades/bands and college meal prices over the years.

Some of the colleges post information of the rent charges and meal prices on their websites of the current year only. We would like to make a temporal overview.

We would like to collect the following data, if available. We would like to collect the data as far back as possible, ideally going back to at least 2012.

1. The height of the different room rent grades/bands per week for each year/term.
2. The student meal price for a (dinner) main plus a side in the buttery/cafeteria for each year/term.

## Response

Thank you for your FoI request to Downing College concerning the trends in college accommodation rent grades/bands and college meal prices during the past few years. Unfortunately, we don't hold the specific data to answer your two questions, but I can provide you with the following information which I hope is of interest.

Please note, we charge a fixed, all-inclusive Residence Charge with 'no hidden extras'. All electricity, heating, water, cleaning, maintenance, insurance and network services are included in the Residence Charge. We do not charge a termly catering facilities charge.

1. The weekly average **mean** rental cost since 2018 is as follows:

2018-19: £157.00

2019-20: £160.42  
2020-21: £164.25  
2021-22: £166.25  
2022-23: £170.58

The average current median weekly rent is £170. For further information concerning our fees and charges, and details about accommodation charges across the College, please visit our website at: [Fees and charges | Downing College Cambridge](#)

2. We haven't traditionally had a fixed meal price for a main student dinner, although we do state on our website (fees and charges) that the typical average meal charge is £6.00 (£10.95 for Formal Hall). However, since Michaelmas 2021 we have offered a Meal Deal which is a fixed price for any main course and two sides. Currently, our Meal Deal is £4.25, increased from £3.75 when first introduced. The Meal Deal offers exceptional value for money and is also combined with our loyalty point scheme. Students earn 10 points for every £1 spent on food. The points can be redeemed at any time for discounts on food and are equal to an additional 2.5% discount.

## 23-05 – Complaints of mould and/or damp in College accommodation

This is a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please note there are two parts to my request.

1. Between 14 June 2017 and 14 November 2022, how many complaints has the college received from student tenants relating to mould and/or damp in college-owned or managed accommodation (halls of residence)?
2. What action was taken in response to the complaints?

## Response

Thank you for your FoI request to Downing College concerning complaints of mould or damp in student accommodation between 2017 and 2022.

I can confirm that over this five-year period we received 147 notifications of damp and/or mould via our Online Maintenance System. For these instances we would be looking to attend to the cause within 24 hours and try to complete any remedial work. For any follow up work (e.g. redecoration) we are normally beholden to the wishes of the individual student as this may disrupt their study time, so this can take a little longer and is dependent on room accessibility and the student's timetable.

## 23-06 – Staff Employment conditions 2023

This is a formal request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Could you please provide the following pieces of information:

Thank you for your FoI request to Downing College concerning employment conditions 2023. I have provided our response to your questions as follows.

1. College pay spine.

## Downing College Cambridge - Freedom of Information Disclosure Log 2023

Downing College operates within a competitive environment especially in attracting academic staff to engage with the College. Therefore, the College considers this information to be commercially sensitive and declines under Section 43(2) (commercial interests) to provide it.

2. Staff headcount (aggregated) for the past year

Please see our Annual Report and Accounts 2022 [accounts\\_2022.pdf \(cam.ac.uk\)](#) (p.73) and the staff headcount is 46 academic and 134 non-academic (FTEs).

3. Staff headcount (disaggregated by grade) for the past year.

Please confirm what you mean by "grade".

4. The number of fixed-term contracts, open-ended and permanent contracts for the past year, with a breakdown by grade. If the College operates a grade system, please provide a breakdown by grade.

Please confirm what you mean by "grade".

5. The number of individuals providing piecework for the College in the past year.

The College does not have access to information that can be found and retrieved within the 18 hour time limit, therefore we decline under Section 12 (appropriate limit) to provide this information.

6. Undergraduate supervisors' headcount for the past year (aggregated)

Downing had 942 undergraduate supervisors in the 2021-22 academic year.

7. Supervisors' headcount for the past year disaggregated by staff category (UTO, postdoc, CTO, graduate students).

The College does not have access to information that can be found and retrieved within the 18 hour time limit, therefore we decline under Section 12 (appropriate limit) to provide this information.

8. Pay rates for piecework (DoSing, supervisions, admission interviews).

Downing College operates within a competitive environment especially in attracting academic staff to engage with the College. Therefore, the College considers this information to be commercially sensitive and declines under Section 43(2) (commercial interests) to provide it.

9. Pay awards made to staff in the past 3 years.

Downing College considers this information to be commercially sensitive, therefore we decline under Section 43(2) (commercial interests) to provide it.

10. A template of a DoS letter of appointment; A template of a contract for a College Tutor; A template of a contract for a College Junior Research Fellow. If contracts are not issued for this post, please provide a template letter of appointment or terms and conditions; A template of contract for a College Teaching Officer.

Please find attached a draft contract template used for Research Fellow roles and also CTO, which is all we have.

### Additional Response

For questions 1, 3 and 4 (grading/ College Spine) thank you for your clarification, please see the following table.

College Pay Spine

Spine	Total	Fixed Term Contracts	Permanent Contracts
21.00	2	2	0
22.00	60	0	60
23.00	12	0	12

## Downing College Cambridge - Freedom of Information Disclosure Log 2023

26.00	7	0	7
27.00	3	0	3
28.00	1	0	1
29.00	2	0	2
30.00	2	0	2
31.00	5	0	5
32.00	13	0	13
33.00	5	1	4
34.00	7	0	7
35.00	2	0	2
36.00	8	0	8
37.00	3	0	3
38.00	4	0	4
39.00	3	0	3
40.00	1	0	1
41.00	1	0	1
44.00	3	0	3
45.00	4	0	4
46.00	5	0	5
47.00	2	0	2
48.00	1	0	1
49.00	2	0	2
50.00	3	1	2
51.00	3	0	3
52.00	5	0	5
53.00	1	0	1
54.00	1	0	1
55.00	1	0	1
56.00	3	0	3
58.00	1	0	1
59.00	2	0	2
60.00	1	0	1
61.00	2	0	2
68.00	1	0	1
70.00	1	0	1
76.00	1	0	1

**For questions 5 and 7** (section 12(2) exemption). As already advised, we had 942 undergraduate supervisors in the 2021-22 academic year. In question 5 we note you request “piecework” (and not “hourly work”) which suggests to us supervision, interview and invigilation work, and this will take some considerable time to determine which of the many people on and off payroll this would apply to. Regarding UTO, postdoc, CTO, graduate students (question 7) the requested disaggregation categories are not necessarily held against those people as it is self-declared and known to be inaccurate. It would therefore be too time-consuming to create/collate, given the overall number of supervisors. So, to conclude, we calculate that to find, retrieve and verify the information requested would take much longer than the 18 hours allowed under the Act. (So 18hrs = 1,080 minutes, which allows a little over a minute for each supervisor, which is insufficient).

**For questions 8 and 9** (section 43(2) exemption). Downing College operates within a competitive environment when attracting staff (including academic) and must consider its commercial and competitive position with other Cambridge colleges (and potentially Oxford colleges). And although every college as an independent entity will make its own assessment on commercial risk, we believe the disclosure of College pay rates and awards has the potential to undermine the College's position in attracting staff to join the College in favour of another. The placement of this information in the public arena would compromise the College's ability to attract staff, particularly when they are likely to be looking at several colleges at the same time. It could also serve to undermine the College's ability or appetite to negotiate specific terms.

Therefore, we believe your question relates to the "procurement" of services, and the guidance of the Information Commissioner is as follows:

"We would generally recognise information about the procurement of goods and service as being commercially sensitive. This can include information provided during a tendering process and also details of a supplier contract or transaction..."

### 23-07 – Law Tripos past papers and Examiners Reports

I am writing to request the Law Tripos Past Papers, Examiners Reports, and sample answers held by the college for the following Law Tripos Papers:

- a) Equity
- b) European Union Law
- c) Civil Law I
- d) Aspects of Obligations

### Response

Thank you for your FoI request to Downing College concerning Law Tripos past papers and Examiners Reports. Please be advised that the College does not hold past Tripos papers for any UG subject including Law, nor do we hold Examiners Reports or sample answers. We suggest that you direct your request to the Law Faculty who should be able to provide you with access to papers.

### 23-08 – Fitness to Study procedures

Could you please provide the following pieces of information:

- (1) Electronic copies, or accessible links to, any documents outlining Fitness to Study procedure, protocol or policy currently in effect. Please note the guidance above in selecting relevant material.

ANS: Please refer to the College website for the policy in the text: <https://www.dow.cam.ac.uk/current-students/health-welfare/fitness-study>. This is reviewed annually and updated as required.

- (2) Any documents, or accessible links to documents, with prior versions of a Fitness to Study procedure that were active in any of the academic years through from 2020-21, 2021-22, or 2022-23, with their year indicated. Do not include any documents that have no changes to the currently active policy, but do indicate if there was no policy in general for any of these years.

ANS: Please refer to the response to Q1.

For each of the academic years, 2020-21, 2021-22, and 2022-23 up to the date of this request, could you please provide:

(3) A yes or no response to the question: has the College initiated a least one Fitness To Study procedure?

ANS: Yes

(4) The number of students referred to a College-based Fitness To Study procedure, (i) as a total number per year; (ii) broken down by whether the referred students are undergraduates or postgraduates.

ANS: The College does not hold aggregated records. We would need to interrogate each individual student paper file (current and archived) to give an accurate answer, and this would take longer than the 18hrs appropriate limit specified under the Act (section 12 exemption).

(5) The number of students suspended temporarily as an outcome of Fitness To Study procedures (ie. an outcome similar to intermission).

ANS: None

(6) The number of students deprived of membership and excluded permanently as an outcome of Fitness To Study procedures (ie. an outcome similar to course withdrawal).

ANS: None

Combining all of the academic years listed earlier (ie. 2020-21 through to the date of this request), please provide:

(7) The number of times the Fitness to study procedure was started (i) as a total number (ii) broken down by the number of times the procedure was started at each stage. You may find that the procedure can begin at a later stage, or advance through stages at discretion rather than via a decision-making body or other measure included in the prior stage; treat this as the process starting at the later stage.

For example, a response might be:

Stage 1: 3

Stage 2: 1

Stage 3: 0

This would indicate that 3 students began the process at Stage 1, whilst 1 student was escalated at discretion or started directly at Stage 2, and no students were started at Stage 3.

ANS: The College does not hold aggregated records. We would need to interrogate each individual student paper file (current and archived) to give an accurate answer, and this would take longer than the 18hrs appropriate limit specified under the Act (section 12 exemption).

## 23-09 – College bankers

I would like to make an FOI request to the College. Please provide the following information: Which bank(s) does the College bank with? If there is more than one bank, please list all in order of highest to largest banking volume.

### Response

Thank you for your FOI request to Downing College regarding College banking. I can confirm that the College only uses one bank, Barclays.

## 23-10 – College investments

Could you please provide the following pieces of information:

- (1) A list of companies which the College holds stocks and shares in, specifying how many shares are held and the approximate value of the shareholding.
- (2) A list of exchange traded funds, private equity funds, mutual funds, index funds, commodities, hedge funds, and bonds that the college has investments in, including the approximate value of each.
- (3) In the case of any indirectly held or fund-based investments a breakdown of the companies invested in through the fund, including the percentage of the total fund made up by each holding.
- 4) In addition, please provide information on the above three requests in relation to holdings from each year since 2018.

## Response

Thank you for your FoI enquiry to Downing College regarding our investments.

Please be advised that the College has engaged the services of an investment manager (Partners Capital) whose terms of business include a requirement that the College must not disclose any information in relation to their business or other matters of a confidential nature of which it may be made aware during the period of engagement. Furthermore, that requirement is binding on the College and the disclosure of information would constitute a breach of confidence and be actionable by the investment manager. The information is therefore exempt under section 41 (Information provided in confidence) of the Freedom of Information Act.

However, general information regarding our investments can be found in our Annual Report and Accounts [accounts\\_2022.pdf \(cam.ac.uk\)](#). For a statement on our investment principles, please see p.24-26. There is an Environmental Statement on p.21, and for the overall composition of our Investment Portfolio please see page 41.

## 23-11 – Direct and indirect investment in energy sector

This is a formal request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Could you please provide the following pieces of information:

1. A list of energy sector companies which the College holds stocks and shares in, specifying how many shares are held and the approximate value of the shareholding.
2. A list of indirect investments that the college has in energy sector companies, via exchange traded funds, private equity funds, mutual funds, index funds, commodities, hedge funds, and bonds.
3. A breakdown of energy sector companies that have been indirectly invested in, including the approximate value of each investment, and in cases of fund-based investments, please include the percentage of the total fund made up by energy sector company holdings.

## Response

Thank you for your FoI enquiry to Downing College regarding our investments.

Please be advised that the College has engaged the services of an investment manager (Partners Capital) whose terms of business include a requirement that the College must not disclose any information in relation to their business or other matters of a confidential nature of which it may be made aware during the period of engagement. Furthermore, that requirement is binding on the College and the disclosure of information would constitute a breach



of confidence and be actionable by the investment manager. The information is therefore exempt under section 41 (Information provided in confidence) of the Freedom of Information Act.

However, general information regarding our investments can be found in our Annual Report and Accounts [accounts 2022.pdf \(cam.ac.uk\)](#). For a statement on our investment principles, please see p.24-26. There is an Environmental Statement on p.21, and for the overall composition of our Investment Portfolio please see page 41.

## 23-12 – College's divestment from the fossil fuel industries, formal minutes

This is a formal request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Could you please provide the following pieces of information:

- 1) Any documents since 2018 from the Governing Body, the Bursarial Committee, and Investments Committee containing any mention(s) of timelines relating to the College's divestment from the fossil fuel industries, including current levels of investments and projections of expected levels of investment.
- 2) Details of any procedures the College goes through in order to ensure that external advisors managing its investments adhere to the college's environmental, ethical and social responsibility standards.
- 3) Any documents since 2018 from the Bursarial Committee, the Governing Body and Investments Committee containing any mention(s) of procedures or plans to introduce procedures through which the College will ensure that external advisors managing its investments adhere to the college's environmental, ethical and social responsibility standards.

## Response

Thank you for your FoI enquiry to Downing College regarding our investments and the fossil fuel industries.

Please be advised that the College has engaged the services of an investment manager (Partners Capital) who attend committee meetings concerning College investments, and whose terms of business include a requirement that the College must not disclose any information in relation to their business or other matters of a confidential nature of which it may be made aware during the period of engagement. Furthermore, that requirement is binding on the College and the disclosure of information would constitute a breach of confidence and be actionable by the investment manager. The information is therefore exempt under section 41 (Information provided in confidence) of the Freedom of Information Act.

However, general information regarding our investments can be found in our published Annual Report and Accounts [accounts 2022.pdf \(cam.ac.uk\)](#). For a statement on our investment principles, please see p.24-26, including a statement on the ethical investment of our funds. There is an Environmental Statement on p.21, and for the overall composition of our Investment Portfolio please see page 41.

## 23-13 – Master's salary and expenses

This is a formal request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Could you please provide the following pieces of information:

- (1) The current salary of the College Master (in GBP),
- (2) The average annual expenses over the past 3 years claimed by the College Master from the College,

(3) A list of the expenses claimed by the College Master over the past 3 years and the purpose for which they were claimed,

(4) If available, a list of expenses grouped by any categories of expenditure determined by the College (e.g., development, fundraising activities, entertainment, etc.).

## Response

Thank you for your FoI request to Downing College requesting the Master's salary and expenses. Concerning his expense claims over the past three years we can only find one in our records, and this was for less than £100 for a College gift and was re-paid to the College. His annual salary is his personal data and therefore exempt from disclosure under section 40(2) (personal data) of the Act.

## 23-14 – Regent's House Grace on Fossil Fuels

This is a formal request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Could you please provide any email correspondence, and information relating to the recent Regent's House Grace relating to fossil fuel ties from 01/11/2022 and 31/03/2023.

To keep information retrieval focused, please search email records of:

(1) College senior leadership team: Alan Bookbinder; Gavin Flynn; Zoe Barber; Guy Williams;

(2) College lists consisting of: fellows; governing body

(3) All members of the college's governing body

Key word searching: "fossil fuel", "grace", and "Regent House" would direct searches to the following information within the time constraints of the request.

## Response

Thank you for your FoI request to Downing College regarding email correspondence and information concerning the recent Regent's House Grace relating to fossil fuel ties from 01/11/2022 and 31/03/2023.

We contacted the College Senior Managers named in your request and asked them to perform a search of all email accounts used to conduct College business using your search terms "fossil fuel" and "grace" and "Regent House". Where the relevant email accounts were hosted on our College systems, we conducted a centralised email search using the same search terms. The combined searches returned a small number of emails which have been combined into the attached PDF (redacted where appropriate). These searches would also have picked up any emails received from or sent to Fellows' email lists that had been retained by the recipients. We do not maintain separate archives of emails circulated via College mailing lists. However, for question 3, we believe it would take longer than the 18 hours allowed under the Act (section 12 exemption) to find and retrieve the information for all members of the Governing Body. There are 51 members of the Governing Body, the overwhelming majority of which do not hold email accounts in College and would therefore need to perform individual searches. We believe that communicating, conducting and co-ordinating a complete return from such a search would take the time taken to respond to your request over the limit of 18 hours.

## 23-15 – Interviews for 3-year classics course December 2021 and 2022

Please provide the following information:

1. Whether pre-interview reading was given to applicants for the three-year Classics course for interviews in 2021 (for 2022 entry) and 2022 (for 2023 entry). Please list the information separately for each year.
2. Whether any pre-reading given as per paragraph 1. above was invigilated. Please list the information separately for each year.
3. Whether any pre-reading given contained a citation.

## Response

Thank you for your FoI request to Downing College concerning interviews in December 2021 and 2022 for the three-year Classics course. To answer your questions, please be advised we have checked in CamSIS (the University's Student Record System) and no pre-reading was formally scheduled for either year.

## 23-16 – CCTV cameras

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I would like to know whether the college operates any CCTV equipment manufactured by Hikvision (Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology Co.) or Dahua (Zhejiang Dahua Technology Co.) on its property. If this is the case, I would like to find out how many CCTV cameras this applies to.

## Response

Thank you for your FoI request to Downing College concerning our CCTV cameras. We have 54 CCTV cameras of varying models and they are all manufactured by Dahua.

## 23-17 – Undergraduate entries via school type 2018-2022

Please provide the following, for 2021-22 application cycle (i.e. entry in September 2022, or deferred entry to 2023), as well as the four preceding cycles (2021 entry, 2020 entry, 2019 entry and 2018 entry):

1. The number of applications, offers and acceptances\* of Home undergraduate students, by school type (Comprehensive; Grammar; Sixth Form College; FE and Tertiary College; Independent)
2. The number of applications, offers and acceptances of Home undergraduate students, by school type (Maintained; Independent) and region of domicile (North East; North West; Yorkshire and The Humber; East Midlands; West Midlands; East of England; London; South East; South West; Northern Ireland; Scotland; Wales)
3. The number of applications, offers and acceptances of Home undergraduate students for each of the following schools:
  - a. Westminster School, SW1P 3PB
  - b. The Perse School, CB2 8QF
  - c. Eton College, SL4 6DW
  - d. St Paul's Girls' School, London, W6 7BS
  - e. St Paul's School, London, SW13 9JT
  - f. Magdalen College School, Oxford, OX4 1DZ
  - g. City of London School, EC4V 3AL
  - h. Sevenoaks School, TN13 1HU
  - i. Highgate School, N6 4AY
  - j. Brighton College, BN2 0AL

- k. King's College School, SW19 4TT
- l. North London Collegiate School, HA8 7RJ
- m. Manchester Grammar School, M13 0XT
- n. Tonbridge School, TN9 1JP
- o. Guildford High School, GU1 1SJ
- p. Latymer Upper School, W6 9LR
- q. Winchester College, SO23 9NA
- r. Dulwich College, SE21 7LD
- s. Royal Grammar School, Guildford, GU1 3BB
- t. Haberdashers' School for Girls, Elstree, WD6 3BT

4. The number of applications, offers and acceptances of Home undergraduate students for all the 20 schools (i.e. the summed total) listed in Question 3.

5. The number of applications, offers and acceptances of Home undergraduate students eligible for free school meals for those applying from the state maintained sector.

## Response

Thank you for your FoI request to Downing College concerning admissions to the College by school type. Please see the attached PDF and the following notes, which I hope answers all your questions. Please note, numbers <3 have been suppressed; this is a standard protocol we apply to avoid the risk of revealing the identities of individual students as personal information is exempt (section 40(2)) under the FOIA.

## 23-18 – Funding from oil, gas and mining companies

This is a request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. I would like to request the following information:

For the calendar years 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022, I would like to be provided with details on accepted donations, gifts, grants, sponsorships, scholarships and funding (including research funding and teaching funding, as well as funding for university staff and professorships) that have come from oil, gas and mining companies. For each, I would like the following information:

- The name of the oil/gas/mining company that gave the donation, gift, grant, sponsorship, scholarship or funding
- The start and end date of the donation, gift, grant, sponsorship, scholarship or funding if available
- The sum and description of the accepted donation, gift, grant, sponsorship, scholarship and funding
- A description of what the donation, gift, grant, sponsorship, scholarship and funding was used for

If your records are held in such a way where it is difficult to search by sector (e.g. oil/gas/mining), then I am happy to narrow the request to the following companies:

- Petrobras
- Repsol
- National Iranian Oil Co.
- Pemex
- Sonatrach
- Jiangxi Copper
- Vale
- Coal India

- Aluminium Corporation of China
- Zijin Mining Group
- Tata Steel
- Hindalco
- CMOC
- Freeport-McMoRan
- Cleveland Cliffs
- United States Steel
- Nornickel

## Response

Thank you for your EIR enquiry to Downing College concerning donations, gifts, grants, sponsorships, scholarships and any funding from oil, gas and mining companies since 2017. I can confirm that we have not received any such monies from the list of companies you have provided.

## 23-19 – Student accommodation

Under the freedom of information act, I request the following information:

1 Revenues and spending on college owned/operated student housing for the academic year 2022/23 and 2021/22

ANS: Forecast revenue for 2022/23 is £3.9m. We use a model to allocate costs between student accommodation and other College activities and this is used as part of the discussions to set rent with the student body so that it is ideally breakeven. (Note, currently rent is not being paid to fully cover the costs, and students are effectively receiving a subsidy from College). However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the unusual nature of activities and costs during that period, the model could not be used as it gave distorted results (unfavourably to student accommodation), therefore the relevant cost figure cannot be given. Instead, inflationary increases were agreed of 1.2% for 2021/22 and 3.0% for 2022/23.

2. Average price of rent per week and per year for students in 2022/23, and also cheapest and most expensive prices per week

ANS: Average £176.83, highest £220, lowest £136.

3. Average price of rent per week and per year for students in 2023/24 , and also cheapest and most expensive prices per week

ANS: Average £190.98, highest £240, lowest £136.

4. Number of places for students in halls this coming year

ANS: 601 places for all UG and PG students.

5. How much has rent increased this year?

ANS: 8.0% for 2023/24

6. How much has rent increased by over the last ten years?

ANS: Average rent has increased by 46.1% over the last 10 years.

7. How many applications for accommodation were received for the coming year, and of those, how many were accepted or rejected?

ANS: We will accommodate all UGs for their first 3 years, and for the coming year all 4th years. No applications for accommodation were rejected. We have 185 postgrad rooms in College for 2023/24, and currently 30 PGs are on the waiting list for accommodation. 215 PG applications were received overall.

## 23-20 – Affirming LGBT support for students

What support (if any) do you offer your trans students to affirm their gender identity? Please state if this includes access to free chest binders, tuckers, hormones and top or bottom surgery.

### Response

Thank you for your FoI request to Downing College concerning any support we offer for trans students to affirm their gender identity. Please be advised a fund of £1500 was established by the JCR to support the wellbeing of LGBT+ students at Downing and can be applied to for therapy costs, gender affirming clothes, travel to clinics etc., please see: [College Support | Downing College Cambridge](#) and anyone who identifies as LGBT+ can apply. There is currently a cap of £50 per individual applicant.

We also refer students to the University's Cranes Fund: <https://www.cambridgestudents.cam.ac.uk/fees-and-funding/financial-assistance/medical-support-fund-cranes-charity>. This Medical Support Fund (Crane's Charity) provides, amongst other support, financial assistance to students in financial need who are seeking psychological treatments for gender dysphoria. The treatment applied for should not be conveniently or readily obtainable under the NHS.

## 23-21 – Agricultural land owned by College

We are writing to all universities and colleges across the UK to find out if they (or any wholly owned subsidiary) own agricultural land, so that we can plan our new programme to best fit the needs of the sector.

Under the Freedom of Information Act, we would appreciate it if you could please provide us with responses to the questions below, to help us with this important work.

We define a "wholly owned subsidiary" to be a company or other formally recognised organisation that is under full ownership or control of the college.

We define an "agricultural land" as per the Agricultural Act 1947:

"agriculture" includes horticulture, fruit growing, seed growing, dairy farming and livestock breeding and keeping, the use of land as grazing land, meadow land, osier land, market gardens and nursery grounds, and the use of land for woodlands where that use is ancillary to the farming of land for other agricultural purposes (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Geo6/10-11/48/section/109?view=plain>>)

Our request below therefore excludes any woodland that is managed for commercial production.

### Response

1. Does your college, and/or any wholly owned subsidiary, own any agricultural land in the UK?

ANS: Yes

2. What is the approximate total area, in hectares, of the agricultural land holdings owned by your college, and/or wholly owned subsidiary, in the UK?

ANS: Parcel one – 3.99 acres; Parcel two – 17.64 acres. So 21.63 acres total, or 9.16 hectares.

3. If the agricultural land that your college, and/or any wholly owned subsidiary, owns is split over multiple holdings under separate management, please could you tell us the number of separately managed agricultural holdings?

ANS: All land is held in a single holding.

4. How many hectares of the agricultural land owned by your college, and/or any wholly owned subsidiary, are managed by staff employed directly by your college and/or the subsidiary?

ANS: None

5. How many hectares of the agricultural land owned by your college, and/or any wholly owned subsidiary, are leased to one or more tenant farmers?

ANS: 9.16 hectares (less some buildings used for storage purposes).

6. Please tell us the type of leases in place on that tenanted land: (a) farm business tenancy (subject to the Agricultural Tenancies Act 1995), (b) annual grazing/cropping license, (c) full agricultural tenancy (subject to the Agricultural Tenancies Act 1986), (d) other (please specify)

ANS: Two parcels of land let to the University on Farm Business Tenancies.

## 23-22 – College conventions, guidelines or rules regarding Regent House Voting

This is a formal request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Could you please provide me with details of any college conventions, guidelines or rules regarding discussion (digitally, in person or in writing) of Regent House and University Council voting:

1. By college staff and fellows
2. By college senior leadership

## Response

Thank you for your FOI request to Downing College concerning any College conventions, guidelines or rules regarding discussion (digitally, in person or in writing) of Regent House and University Council voting. To confirm, we are not aware of any conventions or rules for Regent House or University Council voting at Downing College.

## 23-23 – Funding from North Sea companies

This is a request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. I would like to request the following information:

For the calendar years 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022, I would like to be provided with details on accepted donations, gifts, grants, sponsorships, scholarships and funding (including research funding and teaching funding, as well as funding for university staff and professorships) that have come from oil and gas companies connected to the North Sea\*. For each, I would like the following information:

- The name of the oil and gas company that gave the donation, gift, grant, sponsorship, scholarship or funding
- The start and end date of the donation, gift, grant, sponsorship, scholarship or funding if available
- The sum and description of the accepted donation, gift, grant, sponsorship, scholarship and funding
- A description of what the donation, gift, grant, sponsorship, scholarship and funding was used for

\*I define oil and gas companies connected to the North Sea as the following companies:

Harbour Energy (formerly known as Chrysaor) NEO Energy Ithaca Energy Spirit Energy Apache Serica Energy Premier Oil Centrica Resources Petoro Maersk Oil.

## Response

Thank you for your EIR enquiry to Downing College concerning donations, gifts, grants, sponsorships, scholarships and any funding from oil, gas and mining companies connected to the North Sea since 2017. I can confirm that we have not received any such monies from the list of companies you have provided.

## 23-24 – UG average interview scores and stats for HSPS

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am making this request regarding the assessment of applicants for undergraduate studies at Downing College, Cambridge.

## Response

Thank you for your FoI request concerning UG average interview scores and stats for HSPS, 2017-22. I have provided answers to your questions below.

Would it be possible to know the:

a) average interview score of successful applicants for HSPS from 2017-2022 sorted by year:

	All applicants	Successful applicants
2017	6.5	8
2018	6.8	8.5
2019	6.7	9.2
2020	6.8	8.8
2021	6.7	9.1
2022	6.4	9.8

b) the average interview score of all candidates for each subject for 2022 entry:

Subject	Average
Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic	6.6
Archaeology	6.3
Architecture	6.7
Asian and Middle Eastern Studies	6.9
Chemical Engineering	4.4
Classics	6.5
Computer Science	5.8
Economy	6.1
Education	4.8
Engineering	4.7
English	6.3
Geography	6.7
History	6.2
History and Modern Languages	6.3
History and Politics	6.1
History of Art	5.8
Human, Social, and Political Sciences	6.4



Land Economy	6.3
Law	6.8
Linguistics	7
Maths	5.8
Medicine	6.2
Modern and Medieval Languages	7.4
Music	7.5
Natural Sciences	5.7
Philosophy	6.8
Psychological and Behavioural Sciences	6.6
Theology, Religion, and Philosophy of Religion	8.3
Veterinary Medicine	6.5

c) the average interview score of all candidates for each subject for 2020 entry:

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Average</b>
Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic	6.6
Archaeology	7.3
Architecture	5.8
Asian and Middle Eastern Studies	7.0
Chemical Engineering	4.7
Classics	7.1
Computer Science	5.9
Economy	6.3
Education	7.3
Engineering	5.2
English	6.9
Geography	6.4
History	5.7
History and Modern Languages	6.5
History and Politics	5.3
History of Art	6.9
Human, Social, and Political Sciences	6.8
Land Economy	6.3
Law	6.9
Linguistics	7.9
Maths	5.8
Medicine	6.2
Modern and Medieval Languages	7.7
Music	6.1
Natural Sciences	6
Philosophy	7.2
Psychological and Behavioural Sciences	6.1
Theology, Religion, and Philosophy of Religion	7.4
Veterinary Medicine	6.8

d) the A-Levels/IB Highers taken and the scores achieved for those A-Levels/IB Highers by successful HSPS applicants from 2017-2022:

	Grade	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
A Level	A*	5	11	7	8	15	9
	A	8	3	8	3	-	3
	B	-	-	1	-	-	1
IB Highers	H7	-	-	2	4	-	3
	H6	-	-	1	2	-	-

e) the A-Levels/IB Highers taken and the scores achieved for those A-Levels/IB Highers by HSPS applicants from 2017-2022

As the table above, we only have figures for the successful applicants.

f) the number of home and international applicants for HSPS from 2017-2022 sorted by year:

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Home	24	25	26	29	59	56
EU	6	8	6	5	4	3
Overseas	4	8	11	13	10	12

## 23-25 – Statistics for individual HSPS undergraduate applicants 2018-22

I am making a request regarding the statistics for HSPS undergraduate applicants for entry in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022.

Please provide for each applicant the following data in a single table for each year of entry with one row per applicant, and columns contain the following data:

1. an indicator of the country of the applicant (UK, EU, International, etc.) and applicants grouped by countries (e.g. Country 1, 2, ...)
2. an indicator of the type of school the applicant attended (independent, grammar, etc.) \*the applicant's number of GCSE A\* grades, if applicable \*the applicant's predicted A-Level or IB Higher grades, if applicable \*the subjects the applicant takes/took for A-Level or IB Higher, if applicable
3. the UMS of the applicant, if applicable
4. a yes/no to indicate if applicant was called for interview
5. each interviewer's (please create three separate columns for Social Anthropology, Sociology or Politics and International Relations interviews, so that each interviewee has an interview grade for two of the three disciplines) interview grade for the interviewee (1-10, with NA to indicate if no interview)
6. a yes/no to indicate if offer was made
7. an option to indicate the type of offer (conditional or unconditional or NA to indicate no offer)
8. a yes/no to indicate if applicant was pooled
9. a yes/no to indicate if applicant has received offer from the pool, for the pooled applicant
10. the name of the college that the applicant received an offer from (with NA to indicate if no offer).

I would like to clarify that when I wrote 'Please provide for each applicant the following data in a single table for each year of entry', I meant please provide the following data for each applicant in a year of entry within a single table, but please create separate tables for each year of entry.

## Response

Under the Data Protection Act 2018 we cannot provide you with an individual's personal data. Downing is a small community, and in attempting to answer your precise questions there would be a risk that an individual could be identified. Therefore, and in order to respect the personal data and privacy rights of our students, we decline to provide you with the information you have requested (section 40(2) exemption, personal information). I have responded to your other FoI request and provided you with the average and generalised figures for HSPS application statistics as requested.

### 23-26 – Defence Industry funding (incl. Endowment Fund)

This is a formal request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Could you please provide the following pieces of information:

1. The amount of funding received by your college from the defence or arms manufacture industries.
2. The names of the companies, manufacturers, and bodies in the defence or arms manufacture industries which make up this portion of the college's funding.
3. The amount and type of funding made to the college by each body within the defence or arms manufacture industries in the academic year 2022-23.

Please provide an index of related documents.

In the above request, the phrase "defence or arms manufacture industries" refers, but is not limited to, the following bodies: Mitsubishi; Ministry of Defence; Raytheon; General Electric; Babcock; BAE Systems; Rolls Royce; Boeing; Lockheed Martin Corp.; Leonardo; Thales; Airbus.

### Response

Further to your two FoI requests (including for the Endowment Fund) I am pleased to confirm that Downing College is not funded by the defence or arms manufacturing industries, nor have we received any monies from the list of companies you have provided.

### 23-27 – Bursaries awarded, waiting times and Higher Cambridge Bursaries

This is a formal request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Could you please provide the following pieces of information:

1. The number of applications made by students at your college for the full Cambridge Bursary in the academic year 2022-23.  
**ANS: There's no separate College application for the Cambridge Bursary. If a student is eligible they are automatically considered when applying for a student loan.**
2. The number of full Cambridge Bursaries awarded to students at your college in the academic year 2022-23.  
**ANS: 157 full Cambridge Bursaries (£3,500) were awarded in 2022-23.**
3. Whether there is a limit on the number of Cambridge Bursaries that can be awarded to students within your college, per academic year.  
**ANS: No, but also see answer to question 1.**

4. The number of these awarded Cambridge Bursaries that were of a higher amount than the standard £3,500.  
ANS: 34 students received additional payments beyond the full Bursary in 2022-23.
5. The number of these higher awards that fell into each of the various categories provided by the University's website, namely medical students in their clinical years, independent students including care leavers, and students who were eligible for free school meals.  
ANS: 14 students.
6. The average waiting time for students at your college to receive the Cambridge Bursary.  
ANS: The main payment dates were 24 Oct, 6 Feb and 15 May. The majority received payments in line with this each term.
7. The frequently occurring reasons that would delay the processing of the Cambridge Bursary.  
ANS: Students incorrectly completing the information required by the SLC to enable the award to be correctly assessed.

**PART TWO:**

8. The Higher Cambridge Bursary amount awarded as standard to students at your college who qualify for free school meals, according to the policy that such students are eligible to receive more than the standard £3,500 bursary per academic year.  
ANS: If eligible for free school meals funded by a local authority then students receive an extra £1000 a year.
9. The number of these Higher Cambridge Bursary payments made to students at your college in the academic year 2022-23.  
ANS: Eight students received an extra £1000 for free school meals a year in the academic year 2022-23.
10. The number of these Higher Cambridge Bursary payments which were made, by your college, to students who identify as female.  
ANS: Fewer than 8 students.
11. The number of these Higher Cambridge Bursary payments which were made, by your college, to students who identify as BAME (Black and Minority Ethnic).  
ANS: Fewer than 8 students.

## 23-28 – College Hardship Fund / financial support

This is a formal request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Could you please provide the following pieces of information:

1. The number of applications made with the support of your college's Tutors for the university Hardship Fund for Undergraduate Students in the academic year 2022/23.  
ANS: Applications are made by a student directly to the University, and only the individual Tutor named by the student has sight of applications and is asked to write in support of an application. The information is treated in confidence and not shared more widely in College and therefore the number of applications made by students is unknown.
2. The number of these applications, for the university Hardship Fund in the academic year 2022/23, which were successful.

ANS: 14 payments were received from the University during this period to pass on to students, but it is not known what applications these relate to.

3. The total amount of money awarded to students at your college through these successful applications.

ANS: Based on question 2, the payment received = £24,683.

4. The number of these successful applications which included all or any of the additional £1,500 Cost of Living support fund.

ANS: Not known.

5. The shortest, longest, and average waiting time between students applying for the Hardship Fund, and receiving it.

ANS: Not known.

## **PART TWO**

6. The number of applications made for additional college-level financial support, beyond University-level schemes (such as the Cambridge Bursary and the Hardship Fund), received by your college in the academic year 2022-23.

ANS: 95 undergraduate applications.

7. The number of these applications which were approved.

ANS: 94 undergraduate applications.

8. The amount of money which was paid out to students at your college through such applications, in the academic year 2022-23.

ANS: £31,435.08 has been awarded to UG students.

9. The number of these applications which were made by students who identify as female, and the number of these applications that were approved.

ANS: This information is not collected when students submit applications as it is irrelevant to the application.

10. The number of these applications which were made by students who identify as BAME (Black and Minority Ethnic), and the number of these applications which were approved.

ANS: This information is not collected when students submit applications as it is irrelevant to the application.

## **23-29 – Student complaints and internal complaints**

This is a formal request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Could you please provide the following pieces of information:

Further to your FoI request concerning student complaints, internal complaints and complaint forms, we are unaware of any complaints filed against members of College staff either using the University's SCPF2 form or internally via a College process during the period 2022-23. I have confirmed this in my responses below.

1. The number of SCPF2 Student Complaints Procedure Formal Complaint forms filed against staff members at your college, in the academic year 2022-23.

ANS: We are not aware of any such complaints during this period.

2. The number of these forms which were made by students who identify as female.  
N/a
3. The number of these forms which were submitted by students who identify as BAME (Black and Minority Ethnic).  
N/a
4. The number of these SCPF2 Formal Complaint forms which were decided to be ineligible for an investigation by the Case Handler, following their screening of the complaint.  
N/a
5. The number of these ineligible complaint forms, which were made by students who identify as female.  
N/a
6. The number of these ineligible complaint forms, which were made by students who identify as BAME.  
N/a
7. The number of these Formal Complaint forms, filed against staff members at your college, which resulted in disciplinary action being taken.  
N/a
8. The number of the complaints which resulted in disciplinary action, which were made by students who identify as female.  
N/a
9. The number of the complaints which resulted in disciplinary action, which were made by students who identify as BAME.  
N/a
10. The number of these disciplinary actions which resulted in the resignation or departure of a staff member at your college.  
N/a

## **PART TWO**

1. The number of student complaints made internally to your college, against staff employed by the college, in the academic year 2022-23.  
ANS: We are not aware of any such complaints during this period.
2. The number of student complaints, made internally to your college in the academic year 2022-23, which were responded to by the Responsible Officer within 21 calendar days of receipt.  
N/a
3. The number of student complaints, made internally to your college in the academic year 2022-23, which resulted in disciplinary action against a staff member.  
N/a
4. The number of student complaints, made internally to your college in the academic year 2022-23, which resulted in monetary compensation being given to the affected student.

N/a

5. The total sum of monetary compensation paid to students resulting from complaints made internally to your college in the academic year 2022-23.

N/a

6. The number of student complaints made internally to your college, against staff employed by your college, in the academic year 2022-23, which were made by students who identity as female.

N/a

7. The number of student complaints made internally to your college in the academic year 2022-23, which were made by students who identity as BAME.

N/a

8. The number of student complaints, made internally to your college in the academic year 2022-23, which resulted in disciplinary action against a staff member.

N/a

9. The number of these complaints which resulted in disciplinary action, which were made by students who identify as female.

N/a

10. The number of these complaints which resulted in disciplinary action, which were made by students who identify as BAME (Black and Minority Ethnic).

N/a

## 23-30 – A list of grants, bursaries, and other financial support

This is a formal request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Could you please provide the following pieces of information:

1. A list of grants, bursaries, and other financial support offered by the College to its students, including the total amount in £ made available, and subsequently awarded.

ANS: Please find on our web page at: [College Support | Downing College Cambridge](#). This page contains details of financial support for Downing students on a full time course of study, including monies available and how to apply. This support can include funds to support studies, such as reimbursement for books or travel, as well as funds to help in times of unexpected financial difficulty and hardship.

2. A list of any additional payments and other financial support made available to your students in response to the increase in cost of living during the 2022-23 academic year, including the amount made available and the amount eventually paid to students in £ of each support.

ANS: Beyond College funds to support studies (see answer to Q1 above) and rent bursaries of £5400 in 22/23, there are no additional payments made which relate to cost of living.

3. A list of any additional planned payments and other financial support for your students in response to the increase in cost of living for the 2023-24 academic year, including the amount made available in £ of each support.

ANS: College agreed a below inflation rent increase as a subsidy. There is nothing else planned beyond the upcoming Cambridge Bursary Scheme 2 changes (medics, independents) which are a reaction to the

increases in the cost of living In 22/23. Downing have not yet agreed the value of the rent bursary for 23/24 as we are looking to change how the scheme operates, and as it also depends on household income as well it is hard to forecast in advance.

4. A breakdown of average termly student costs for college-provided accommodation, including any fixed charges where applicable, and catering in the 2022-23 academic year.  
ANS: Average **weekly** rent: £176.83, highest £220, lowest £136. Downing charge a fixed, all-inclusive Residence Charge with 'no hidden extras'. All electricity, heating, water, and network services are included in the Residence Charge. We do not charge a termly catering facilities charge.
5. A breakdown of projected average termly student costs for college-provided accommodation, including any fixed charges where applicable, and catering in the 2023-24 academic year.  
ANS: Average **weekly** rent: £190.98, highest £240, lowest £136. Downing charge a fixed, all-inclusive Residence Charge with 'no hidden extras'. All electricity, heating, water, and network services are included in the Residence Charge. We do not charge a termly catering facilities charge.

### 23-31 – Top 5 UG courses which invite the most applicants to interview

Thank you for your reply. I am sorry for the confusion caused. I mean the top 5 undergraduate courses which have invited the highest percentage of applicants to interview. It would be great if you could help to provide the relevant data for the past two application seasons.

### Response

Thank you for your enquiry. We are dealing with your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, and I can provide you with the following information.

The top five UG courses which invited the most applicants to interview (and provided in alphabetical order) for the last two admissions rounds are as follows. Please note, some courses have a very small number of applicants and so will have a disproportionately high percentage of candidates invited for an interview.

For 2023 entry (2022 admissions round):

1. Archaeology
2. History and Modern and Medieval Languages
3. Linguistics
4. Music
5. Philosophy

For 2022 entry (2021 admissions round):

1. = Archaeology / Asian & Middle Eastern Studies
2. Anglo Saxon, Norse and Celtic
3. Music
4. Philosophy
5. Theology

Please also be aware there is information and advice regarding interviews at Downing which can be found on our website, for example: [How interviews work | Downing College Cambridge](#) and [Preparing for your interview | Downing College Cambridge](#)



### 23-32 – UG average interview scores and stats for HSPS - school type attended

- 1) In regards to part a [see 23-24] could you please let me know which subject (or subjects) of HSPS the interview was held in (e.g. social anthropology or politics) for each column?
- 2) Would you also please be able to provide the number of applicants applying from each type of school (e.g. comprehensive, grammar, independent) from each year for the years 2017-2022 (and 2023 if now available), and the number of successful applicants from each type of school from each year?

### Response

Thank you for your additional FoI request to Downing College concerning application stats for HSPS. We do not have the information to answer your first question, but please see the following table regarding your second. Data for 2023 is not yet available.

		All applicants					Successful applicants				
	Total No. applicants	Comprehensive	Sixth form	Grammar	Independent	Overseas/ Other	Comprehensive	Sixth form	Grammar	Independent	Overseas/ Other
2017	34	4	1	6	10	13	2	0	2	4	1
2018	42	4	5	4	15	14	1	1	0	4	1
2019	43	9	0	2	16	16	2	0	1	0	4
2020	47	10	2	1	17	17	1	0	0	4	3
2021	73	16	8	13	21	15	2	0	3	1	1
2022	72	20	3	10	23	16	3	0	1	1	0

### 23-33 – UG Law pre-reading

Please provide all the documents given as pre-reading prior to interview in the last 3 admission cycles for BA Law. If pre-reading was not given then please state the content of the interview e.g. statute on assault given.

### Response

After considering your request we have taken the view that disclosure of any information would compromise the commercial interests of the College and be prejudicial to the effective running of future cycles of admissions if the same or similar material is used. Therefore, we consider the information to be exempt under Section 43, which exempts information whose disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (an individual, a company, public authority or any other legal entity). Please also see the ICO precedent concerning a similar request to Goldsmith College in 2022 at [ic-183175-q4f9.pdf \(ico.org.uk\)](https://ico.org.uk/what-we-don/our-recommendations/2022-01-18-183175-q4f9.pdf)

### 23-34 – Student misconduct

I am writing under the Freedom of Information Act.

### PART A

## Downing College Cambridge - Freedom of Information Disclosure Log 2023

Please provide the relevant answers for each of the following, broken down by the academic years of 2017/18, 2018/19, 2020/21, 2021/22, and 2022/23

- a) The number of incidents of academic misconduct recorded by the College.

ANS: Based on your definition of an 'incident' there were no cases which prompted an investigation by the College.

- b) The number of incidents of non-academic misconduct recorded by the College.

ANS: The following refer to incidents of non-academic misconduct reported to the Dean and recorded by the College in each academic year using the dates 1 October to 30 September.

2018/19: 5

2019/20: 15

2020/21: 20

2021/22: 18

2022/23: 7 (to date)

Note: the higher numbers in some years relate mainly to infringements of Covid-management protocols within College.

- c) The number of incidents of plagiarism recorded by the College.

ANS: Based on your definition of an 'incident' there were no cases which prompted an investigation by the College. (Note, plagiarism is almost always a University matter to investigate and not a College matter).

- d) The number of incidents of unauthorised use of artificial intelligence (AI) for exams or submitted work recorded by the College.

ANS: Based on your definition of an 'incident' there were no cases which prompted an investigation by the College.

I define 'incidents' as any case which prompted an investigation by the College, whether or not that investigation resulted in a confirmation of misconduct, plagiarism or use of AI as relevant. Please also provide the relevant number of cases that did result in a finding of misconduct.

### PART B

Please provide a list containing an anonymised description of every non-academic misconduct incident that was found to have occurred in the College in the academic year 2022/23, and the resulting disciplinary action taken.

ANS: A student may be referred to the Dean for reasons such as: smoking in a room in College, being drunk in College, cycling in College, lending student cards to other students to enable them to access College and College facilities. There were also a number of Covid infringements during the pandemic such as students breaking household rules, leaving the College during lockdown, and not remaining in isolation. Depending on the infringement, a student will usually receive just a warning or a deferred £50 fine in the first instance.

## 23-36 – Student non-disclosure agreements

This is a formal request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Could you please provide the following pieces of information:

1. The number of non-disclosure agreements that the College has requested students sign in the last two years (i.e. between September 4 2021 and September 4 2023)

2. The number of non-disclosure agreements that have been signed by students at the request of the College in the last two years (i.e. between September 4 2021 and September 4 2023)
3. The nature of the complaint being investigated that prompted each request to sign a non-disclosure agreement (i.e. sexual harassment, sexual assault, plagiarism ect.)
4. The consequences (if any) for a student who chooses to decline a request made by the College to sign a non-disclosure agreement

## Response

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request to Downing College concerning the number of student non-disclosure agreements signed during the past two years. I can confirm that we have not used non-disclosure agreements and we are not aware of asking a student to sign any such agreement over the past two years.

## 23-37 – Student private accommodation

Thank you for your FoI request to Downing College concerning student private accommodation. I have answered your questions below.

## Response

1. Please indicate the proportion of current students and the proportion of incoming students who have had to search for private accommodation in the academic year 2023-24.  
ANS: The College offers accommodation for three years of undergraduate study and provides some rooms for undergraduates preferring to remain in College accommodation for their final year of a four-year course. Please see our website at [Undergraduate accommodation | Downing College Cambridge](#). We do not hold data relating to the numbers of undergraduates who we do not accommodate after their third year. We also do not have final figures for postgrads at this point.
2. Please indicate an approximate proportion of cases where students who could not be accommodated in the college are due to the disruption caused by the Marking and Assessment Boycott (MAB).  
ANS: None that we are aware of.
3. For academic years starting 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022, please indicate the proportion of students who have used private accommodation.  
ANS: Please see Q1 For undergraduates. Concerning postgrads, We don't hold the information for the proportion of postgrads who have used private accommodation for the years in question as a CamSIS search cannot be backdated.

## 23-38 – Home applicant stats for the 2023 cycle

Thank you for your FoI request concerning school types attended for home students for the 2023 admissions cycle. I have provided answers to your questions below.

## Response

1. A breakdown of state-educated applicants into attendance at grammar or comprehensive schools. If possible, please also provide a breakdown of comprehensive-educated applicants into community schools, foundation schools, and academies.
2. A breakdown of state-educated offer-holders into attendance at grammar or comprehensive schools. If possible, please also provide a breakdown of comprehensive-educated offer-holders into community schools, foundation schools, and academies.

## Downing College Cambridge - Freedom of Information Disclosure Log 2023

ANS: Please see the following table for answers to questions 1 and 2. This is the only school split we are able to provide.

	Applicants	Offer holders (those with confirmed offers)
State-educated	292	35
Foundation	5	3
Further Education	21	1
Grammar	158	34
Independent	237	29
Overseas/ EU	219	23
Sixth Form	113	10
Tertiary College	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1041</b>	<b>132</b>

3. The proportion of post-16 state-educated applicants who attended private schools in Key Stage 4, and the proportion of post-16 state-educated offer-holders who attended private schools in Key Stage 4.
4. The proportion of post-16 private-educated applicants who attended state schools in Key Stage 4, and the proportion of post-16 private-educated offer-holders who attended state schools in Key Stage 4.

ANS: We do not retain Key Stage 4 school types, only information in the table above.

5. A breakdown of the percentage of applicants from each region in England, and the percentage of offer-holders from each region in England.

ANS: Please see the following table, we only have information for offer-holders and for counties and not regions.

County	Number
Bedfordshire	1
Berkshire	3
Buckinghamshire	7
Caerdydd	1
Cambridgeshire	5
Cheshire	4
Cornwall	1
Cumbria	1
Derbyshire	1
Dorset	1
East Riding of Yorkshire	1
East Sussex	1
Essex	8
Glasgow	1

Gloucestershire	3
Hampshire	3
Hertfordshire	3
Ireland	1
Isle of Man	1
Kent	3
Leicestershire	3
Lincolnshire	3
London	25
Merseyside	1
North Yorkshire	1
Nottinghamshire	1
Overseas	22
Oxfordshire	2
Shropshire	2
South Yorkshire	1
Staffordshire	1
Suffolk	2
Surrey	7
Tyne and Wear	1
Warwickshire	3
West Midlands	3
West Sussex	1
Wiltshire	2
Worcestershire	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>132</b>

6. A breakdown of the proportion of ethnic backgrounds of applicants, and a breakdown of the proportion of ethnic backgrounds of offer-holders.

ANS: UCAS does not provide Colleges with ethnicity data until the very end of the cycle, so we should receive the current cycle ethnicity data during next admissions cycle.

## 23-39 – Applications and offers for Eton to read Maths

For the below “Applications, Offers & Acceptances by UCAS Apply Centre” data published by Cambridge, please confirm how many applications and offers from your college were to read Mathematics for applicants from Eton College.

A second question is that of the applications and offers to read Mathematics, how many went to Eton students who were previously entitled to free school meals in the last six years.

A third question is that of the applications and offers to read Mathematics, how many went to Eton students who had been on a full scholarship.

We need information about the admission cycles for at least the last 3 years (but ideally last 5 years).

## Response

Thank you for your FoI request concerning applications from Eton College since 2018. Please be advised we have only had one application from Eton College in the last six years. We cannot provide any further information as it is the individual's personal data (FoIA section 40(2) exemption, personal data).

## 23-40 – Offers to Eton including for Maths M100

For the admissions cycles for years 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019 & 2018, how many offers were made by your college to applications from the UCAS Apply Centre (10092) Eton College:

- 1) For any undergraduate degree?
- 2) For the G100 Mathematics undergraduate degree?

If you don't have data for all the requested years then please provide it for the years that you do have it for.

## Response

Thank you for your FoI request concerning applications from Eton College since 2018. Please be advised we have only had one application from Eton College in the last six years. We cannot provide any further information as it is the individual's personal data (FoIA section 40(2) exemption, personal data).

## 23-41 – Law interview marking criteria

I am writing to make a freedom of information request:

- Law interview marking/scoring criteria, or anything used to that purpose, used by Downing College;
- Law interview assessment form, if there is one, used by Downing College.

## Response

Thank you for your FoI request to Downing College. I can confirm that we do not have a specific Law marking/scoring criteria, and/or a specific Law interview assessment form.

## 23-42 – Admissions questions for M100 from Eton

I would be grateful if you could direct me to the relevant data answering the below questions or ideally provide the answer.

For the Mathematics (G100) undergraduate course for the last 5 years:

- 1) How many applications from the Apply Centre (10092) Eton College were made to your college?
- 2) How many applications from the Apply Centre (10092) Eton College resulted in an interview?
- 3) How many applications from the Apply Centre (10092) Eton College received an offer?
- 4) Of these offers to the Apply Centre (10092) Eton College, how many were pool offers made to applicants who had applied to other colleges and how many were offers to direct applicants?

## Response

Thank you for your FoI request concerning applications from Eton College since 2018. Please be advised we have only had one application from Eton College in the last six years. We cannot provide any further information as it is the individual's personal data (FoIA section 40(2) exemption, personal data).

## 23-43 – College Drugs Policy

Thank you for your FoI request to Downing College concerning our drugs misuse policy. Please find answers to your questions below.

### Response

1) Does your college take a 'harm reduction' approach to students found in possession of illegal drugs? If not, please could you disclose your policy towards drug possession?

ANS: The possession and supply of controlled drugs are criminal offences, and the College will invoke its own disciplinary procedures in cases where students are found to be in possession of illegal drugs. However, though we do not seek to condone or normalise drug use, we also take a harm reduction approach: we encourage students to talk openly about drugs or drug taking with welfare support staff, and our Wellbeing Team, working closely with the JCR, seeks to reduce demand for drugs through education and communication around drug use awareness. Downing's statement on alcohol and drug misuse can be found on our website at [Alcohol and drugs advice | Downing College Cambridge](#).

2) Where case numbers are available, how many students have disclosed concerns about their own or another student's drug use in the last five years?

ANS: Fewer than five.

3) In the last five years, have there been any cases of students in your college facing college or university disciplinary procedures for possession of illegal drugs? If so, has any student been 'sent down'/excluded from the college as a result of drug possession?

ANS: No, none.

4) Where a disciplinary case has been brought forward, how many of these cases of drug possession have involved drink spiking or other forms of harassment?

ANS: N/a

5) Does the college have a policy of contacting the police in circumstances where a student is found in possession of illegal drugs?

ANS: The College is required to inform the police in cases of possession of Class A drugs or cases of dealing involving any controlled drugs.

6) What steps is the college taking to support students who disclose drug harm?

ANS: The College takes its duty of care to students very seriously. The Wellbeing team is always ready to give confidential advice or help to students who disclose drug harm and will seek to provide any student involved with or concerned about drugs (illegal or legal) with medical and counselling support.

7) What training do relevant welfare staff receive pertaining to students who disclose alcohol and drug harm?

ANS: Rudimentary training, but Downing's Head of Student Wellbeing is currently engaged with uptraining for drug and alcohol support.

8) Does the college include a clause in license/tenancy agreements related to drug possession? If so, please disclose any relevant clauses.

ANS: No it doesn't.

9) Where there is a clause related to drug use/possession in license/tenancy agreements issued by the college, have any students been unable to access further accommodation based on drug possession? If so please list the number of students who have been unable to access accommodation or removed from accommodation for this reason in the last five years.

ANS: N/a

## 23-44 – College Living Wage

Thank you for your FoI request to Downing College concerning our living wage practices. I have provided answers to your questions as follows.

### Response

1. As of September 2023, the exact lowest hourly wage paid by the college to permanent or temporary employees, over the age of 18, who are not trainees or apprentices, not including holiday pay or benefits.

ANS: £11.45 per hour

2. As of September 2023, the exact lowest hourly wage paid by the college to casual workers (including those on zero-hour contracts, if applicable), over the age of 18, who are not trainees or apprentices, not including holiday pay or benefits.

ANS: £10.42 per hour

3. As of September 2023, the number of workers (employees or casual workers), if any, in the college who are over the age of 18 and paid below £10.42 per hour.

ANS: None

4. As of September 2023, the number of workers (employees or casual workers), if any, in the college who are over the age of 18 and paid over £80,000 annually.

ANS: Fewer than five. For published details on trustees' salaries please see our latest Annual Report & Accounts p.88: [accounts\\_2022.pdf \(cam.ac.uk\)](#)

5. As of September 2023, the percentage of workers (employees or casual workers) in the college in non-academic/administrative positions who are over the age of 18 and paid below £10.42 per hour.

ANS: 0%

6. As of September 2023, is the college currently in the process of gaining accreditation from the Living Wage Foundation?

ANS: No

7. The Real Living Wage for 2023, set by the Living Wage Foundation, is set to be announced in September. What plans or timeline does the college have for increasing pay in line with this?

ANS: We intend to consider the new rate during our next pay review in 2024.

8. If the college uses any external employment agencies to provide staff, the number of contracted staff who worked 2 or more hours a day, in any day of the week, for 12 or more consecutive weeks, in the year prior to September 2023, who were paid below £10.42 per hour.

ANS: We do not hold this information as contracted staff are paid by an agency.

9. The exact highest salary paid by the college to permanent or temporary employees, over the age of 18, who are not trainees or apprentices, not including holiday pay or benefits.



ANS: For published details on trustees' salaries please see our latest Annual Report & Accounts p.88: [accounts\\_2022.pdf \(cam.ac.uk\)](#)

## 23-45 – Information regarding the short stay accommodation

Request withdrawn

## 23-46 – College website details

Further to your FoI request for information regarding our College Website. Please find our answers below.

### Response

1. What CMS/software and version does your public facing University website use? (e.g. In-house, Sharepoint, Jadu, Drupal 9)  
ANS: [Drupal 10 upgrade took place in October.](#)
2. Is your public facing University website hosted and supported by a third party IT partner or on-premise? If a third party, when does your current contract expire?  
ANS: [A third party IT partner hosts the website; our contract expires in 2024.](#)
3. When was your public facing University website launched?  
ANS: [The earliest records for a Downing College website date from 1996.](#)
4. What are your separate budgets for hosting/supporting and development for your public facing University website?  
ANS: [That information is commercially sensitive and therefore exempt under the Act \(Section 43 – commercial interests\).](#)
5. Which team/department/individual is responsible for maintaining your public facing University website?  
ANS: [Communications Department.](#)

### Digital Accessibility

1. When was your public facing University website last audited for accessibility compliance?  
ANS: [No formal audit has been conducted.](#)
2. Which team/department/individual is responsible for maintaining accessibility compliance across your public facing websites?  
ANS: [Communications Department.](#)

### Website Content

1. Do you work with external marketing/communications suppliers to create content for your public facing services?  
ANS: [On occasion external suppliers have provided digital content, e.g. short films to advertise our summer programme or conference services.](#)
2. When was the last time you conducted a content audit on your website to remove outdated content?  
ANS: [No formal audit has been conducted.](#)

## 23-47 – Mathematics minimum exam entry results 2023

With reference to the attached spreadsheet, I would like it completed for all of those individuals who commenced the **Mathematics** or **Mathematics with Physics** undergraduate courses in October 2023 (or have deferred to 2024) who did **not** attain the following *minimum* combination of exam results:

- STEP (ii) grade 1  
and
- STEP (iii) grade 1

For those candidates who sat exams other than A-Levels, for example International Baccalaureate, leave the cells relating to A-Levels blank.

## Response

Thank you for your FoI request to Downing College concerning minimum exam entry results for students studying Mathematics or Maths with Physics and starting October 2023. I can confirm that Five Maths students started this year (there was no deferred entry for 2024) and four achieved (or exceeded) the minimum exam entry requirements. We cannot provide you with the exam entry results as outlined in your spreadsheet for the one remaining student, as the information requested is personal data that may identify the individual and is therefore exempt under the Act (section 40(2) personal information).

## 23-48 – Antisemitic emails to the Master

Could you please provide the following pieces of information:

1. All emails sent to [graham.virgo@admin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:graham.virgo@admin.cam.ac.uk), [master@dow.cam.ac.uk](mailto:master@dow.cam.ac.uk), and Graham Virgo's college master email account, which include the key words 'Israel' and/or 'antisemitism' and/or 'antisemitic' in the month of October and November 2023.
2. All emails sent from [graham.virgo@admin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:graham.virgo@admin.cam.ac.uk), [master@dow.cam.ac.uk](mailto:master@dow.cam.ac.uk), and Graham Virgo's college master email account, which include the key words 'Israel' and/or 'antisemitism' and/or 'antisemitic' in the month of October and November 2023.

## Response

Thank you for your FoI request to Downing College concerning emails sent to/from the Master. Using the search terms and the dates you have outlined below I can provide you with the attached and redacted PDF. Please let me know if you have any further queries.

## 23-49 – Downing reprographics/print arrangements

Further to your FoI request to Downing College I have provided answers to your questions below.

1. Number of MFDs (Multi-functional devices) & photocopiers at Downing College (University of Cambridge): 5
2. Name of incumbent: Ricoh & Konica Minolta
3. Start/end date of contract (if expired, WHEN do you expect to revisit the marketplace) No contract start date. All printers have their own lease, so expire at different times. Each lease is 3 years.
4. Details of any extension options: No extension options.
5. What framework / Route to market used: Direct to manufacturer
6. Number of regular/desktop printers (in addition to above): 34
7. Is there a support contract on above, if yes please state start/end date: Same as lease period for each printer (q.3).
8. Does the College have a Print Room: Yes

9. If yes, name of supplier, number of devices and start/end date of contract, also details of any extension options. [Konica Minolta – started 01/07/2023 – ends 30/06/2026. There are no extension options.](#)
10. Total annual print/copy volumes including, if applicable your Print Room, for (a) mono (b) colour:
- | B/W                     | Colour                  |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <a href="#">187,377</a> | <a href="#">253,936</a> |
11. What Print software does the College run: [We cannot provide sensitive information on software types or versions as this concerns the information security of the College.](#)
12. Your total annual spend on print: [£4,190 per year on leases which includes toner refills. This does not include the cost of paper.](#)
13. Name of person at the College responsible for the running of MFDs and, if applicable, your Print Room: [IT Operations Manager.](#)

## 23-50 – Investments in Israeli companies

Please supply the amounts of any investments the College has in the below companies, including through index funds

Raytheon  
Booking.com \*  
BAE Systems  
HSBC  
Honeywell  
Valero energy  
Albemarle Corp  
Boeing  
Caterpillar  
Check point software tech  
Cisco systems  
Exxon Mobil Corp  
General Dynamic  
Lockheed Martin  
Northrop Grumman  
Rockwell Automation  
Textron  
Barclays  
Airbus  
Thales  
Puma  
Siemens  
Bank Hapoalim BM  
Bank Leumi Le-Israel  
Mitsubishi  
Elbit Systems  
Israel Discount Bank  
Nice Ltd  
Sony  
AXA  
ABB Ltd  
Safran

Alstom \*  
Smiths Group  
Motorola \*  
Rolls Royce  
Expedia \*  
L3 Technologies  
General Electric  
Airbnb Inc \*  
Hewlett Packard (HP)  
Azrieli Group Ltd  
Mizrahi Tefahot Bank Ltd \*

## Response

Please be advised that the College has engaged the services of an investment manager (Partners Capital) whose terms of business include a requirement that the College must not disclose any information in relation to their business or other matters of a confidential nature of which it may be made aware during the period of engagement. Furthermore, that requirement is binding on the College and the disclosure of information would constitute a breach of confidence and be actionable by the investment manager. The information is therefore exempt under section 41 (Information provided in confidence) of the Freedom of Information Act.