

24-01 Student complaints of antisemitism since 2016

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

1. The number of student complaints relating to antisemitism raised between 1 January 2014 and 15 December 2016 (the “**First Period**”)
2. The number of student complaints relating to antisemitism raised during the First Period which resulted in any kind of disciplinary measure pursuant to the relevant university rules and procedures
3. The number of student complaints relating to antisemitism raised during the First Period which were taken to the Office of the Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education, and details of the Independent Adjudicator's findings in each such case
4. The number of student complaints relating to antisemitism raised between 16 December 2016 and 6 October 2023 (the “**Second Period**”)
5. The number of student complaints relating to antisemitism raised during the Second Period which resulted in any kind of disciplinary measure pursuant to the relevant university rules and procedures
6. The number of student complaints relating to antisemitism raised during the Second Period which were taken to the Office of the Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education, and details of the Independent Adjudicator's findings in each such case
7. The number of student complaints relating to antisemitism raised since 7 October 2023 and 1 December 2023 (the “**Third Period**”)
8. The number of student complaints relating to antisemitism raised during the Third Period which resulted in any kind of disciplinary measure pursuant to the relevant university rules and procedures
9. The number of student complaints relating to antisemitism raised during the Third Period which were taken to the Office of the Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education, and details of the Independent Adjudicator's findings in each such case

Response

Thank you for your FOI request to Downing College concerning student complaints relating to antisemitism from 2014 to 2023. We no longer hold records for the first period (2014-2016), and after checking we are not aware of anything in our records for either of your other two periods (Dec 2016 - Dec 2023).

24-02 Student fines during academic year 2022-23

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 students who were fined by the College last academic year for breaches of the College rules
ANS: Fewer than five.
2. The total amount of money students were fined by the College last academic year
ANS: £40
3. The highest single fine issued by the College to a student last academic year
Ans: £20
4. The most common reason students were fined by the College last academic year
ANS: Student card loaned out.

24-03 Downing College access and outreach funding

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 given by the college to access and outreach initiatives each year over the past five years;
2. Details on what these outreach events include;
3. How much student volunteers are paid to help out with these outreach initiatives;
4. The amount of funding given by the college to its students from less economically privileged backgrounds each year over the last five years;
5. How many of its students have been able to access this extra college funding each year over the last five years and the average grant per student;
6. How many students from your link areas (Cornwall, Devon and Dorset) end up applying to your college and how many of those applicants are made an offer each year over the last five years.

Response

Thank you for your request to Downing College concerning outreach funding over the last five years. I can provide answers to your questions as follows:

1. The total expenditure by the College on outreach/access events and initiatives was as follows:

Year	£
2022/23	259,357
2021/22	181,245
2020/21	76,823
2019/20	148,305
2018/19	182,630

2. Please see a below details of what these outreach events include:

Year	Outreach events
2022/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discover Downing Scholars Programme • STEM SMART • Enhanced Open Day Residential for Yr12s • Yr11 Maths & Technology Residential • Yr11 Historical Studies Residential • Offer Holder Open Day • Mentoring

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application Support Webinar • Interview Advice Webinar • Individual School Webinars • Subject Admissions Webinars • Targeted Year Group Webinars • Joint Oxford and Cambridge Information Webinars • Academic discussions • IntoUniveristy visit days • Brilliant Club visit days • School visit days • Multiple Talks and Workshops delivered to schools in Devon, Dorset and Cornwall • First Story Creative Writing Festival • The Ambassador Platform
2021/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discover Downing Scholars Programme • STEM SMART • Enhanced Open Day Residential for Yr12s • Yr11 Science Residential • Yr11 Languages & Culture Residential • Offer Holder Open Day • University of Cambridge Virtual Open Day for Disabled Students • African Caribbean Society Access Conference • Mentoring • Application Support Webinar • Interview Advice Webinar • Individual School Webinars • Subject Admissions Webinars • Targeted Year Group Webinars • Joint Oxford and Cambridge Information Webinars • Ask a Downing student and Ask an Admissions Tutor Open Day Webinars • Academic discussions • School visit days • Multiple talks and workshops delivered to schools in Devon, Dorset and Cornwall • The Ambassador Platform
2020/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discover Downing Scholars Programme • Mentoring • Yr12 Enhanced Open Day Webinar • Yr11 Online residential • Brilliant Club Online Resources and Events

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual school webinars • Subject Admissions Webinars • Targeted Year Group Webinars • Joint Oxford and Cambridge Information Webinars • Interview Preparation Webinar • Student Finance & Budgeting video for You Tube • Student Worries and Concerns video for You Tube • Interview Advice video for You Tube • Ask a Downing student and Ask an Admissions Tutor Open Day Webinars • CSU Shadowing Scheme • Click Cambridge • The Ambassador Platform <p>(All events during Covid were held online)</p>
2019/20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Villiers Park – Inspire2Involve • Brilliant Club Visit Days • Individual School Residentials • School Visit Days • Multiple Talks and Workshops delivered to schools in Devon, Dorset and Cornwall • Admissions Webinar • University Taster Webinar for Muslim Students • Women in STEM Residential Webinar • Subject Admissions Webinars • Targeted Year Group Webinars • CSU Shadowing Scheme • Ask a Downing Student Video for You Tube • Arts & Humanities Residential Webinar <p>(All events during Covid were held online)</p>
2018/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Villiers Park – Inspire2Involve • Yr12 South West Residential • Multiple talks and workshops delivered to schools in Devon, Dorset and Cornwall • Attending school careers fairs • School visit days • Individual school residentials • CSU Shadowing Scheme • Brilliant Club visit days

3. The pay rate from April 2023 for student volunteers has been £10.42 with £1.26 holiday pay per hour.
4. The amount of funding given by the College to its students from less economically privileged backgrounds from 1 October 2019 to 15 Feb 2024: £251,786.81

5. The number of students able to access this money From 1 October 2019 to 15 Feb 2024 was 244 students. The average award was £500.
6. Please see table below:

	Number of applications to Downing from Dorset, Devon and Cornwall	Number of offers to students from Dorset, Devon and Cornwall
2023	21	4
2022	11	2
2021	25	5
2020	28	5
2019	23	3

24-04 Complaints of sexual harassment since 2019

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

Could you please provide the following pieces of information:

1. Number of formal complaints of sexual harassment each year over the last five years;
2. Number of cases that were further investigated by the college each year over the last five years;
3. Information on the number of incidents that were cases of student-on-student sexual harassment each year over the last five years;
4. Information on the number of incidents that were cases of staff-on-student sexual harassment each year over the last five years;
5. Information on the number of incidents that were cases of student-on-staff sexual harassment each year over the last five years;
6. Information on the disciplinary action taken in respect of the cases mentioned above and what each was (i.e., formal warning, expulsion, etc.)

Response

Thank you for your FoI request to Downing College concerning records of sexual harassment over the past five years.

Following the guidance provided by the Information Commissioner's Office when reporting small numbers* I can confirm that we have 0-5 incidents on record each year since 2019 to the present. As Downing is a small community there is a risk that an individual case could be identified (section 40(2) exemption, personal information) if any details were published. I can confirm though that we do take any complaint of alleged sexual assault or harassment very seriously; action is taken, any matters are investigated and alleged perpetrators interviewed and appropriate measures taken. Furthermore, no student has been expelled, or

staff dismissed, from the College as a result of a sexual assault/harassment complaint, and the College has not needed to refer any matters to the police.

*The Information Commissioner recommended the use of "0-5" (or fewer than 5) in 2017 on the same topic; please see <https://ico.org.uk/media/action-weve-taken/decision-notices/2017/2172649/fs50682996.pdf>. The case concerned King's College in Cambridge and when discussing the merits of the argument about small numbers changing over time, the Information Commissioner recommended the use of "0-5" in this case, stating (para 28):

The Commissioner also notes that the phrase 'less than 5' is often used in the suppression of the individual numbers of '0, 1,2,3,4 and 5'. Therefore, it would be possible for the College to respond to the third request dated 29 March 2017 using the 'less than 5' response even if the response for the current academic year is the same 'nil' response as the previous five years.

24-05 Tuition Fee Fraud

I would like you to provide the following information:

- 1) For each year since 2018, how many students have been investigated for tuition fee fraud?
- 2) What were the outcomes in each case?
- 3) Of the total number of students investigated since 2018, how many were of Chinese nationality?

Response

Thank you for your FoI request to Downing College concerning tuition fee fraud since 2018. I can confirm that we are not aware of any such cases.

24-06 Real Living Wage

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

Could you please provide the following pieces of information:

1. Number of staff the college didn't pay the Real Living Wage to in the last financial year
2. The total number of staff the college employs

Response

Thank you for your FoI request to Downing College concerning the Real Living Wage. Please can I direct you to our latest published information on this subject in our 2023 FoI Disclosure Log, item 23-44, at: [Disclosure Log Jan-Oct 2022 \(cam.ac.uk\)](#)

24-07 Widening participation criteria - 6th forms

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

A list of schools which were flagged under the widening participation criteria of 'Attend a low-performing Sixth Form' for the past 3 admissions cycle, and the amount of students who applied from each school in each cycle.

Response

Thank you for your FoI request to Downing College concerning the widening participation criteria for students from schools that '*attend[ed] a low-performing Sixth Form*' for the past three admission cycles. After checking I can confirm that we don't collect that specific information, so unfortunately I'm unable to help you any further.

24-08 Law admissions statistics for 2024 entry

I am writing to request the following statistics for each applicant, including disabled applicant, applicant from low social economic background, affiliated applicant (or senior status applicant) and mature applicant, who made an application to study law at Downing College in 2023 for 2024 entry.

A.

For each applicant who made an application to study law at Downing College, please provide the following information in anonymised entry:

1. LNAT Multiple Choice Questions score
2. LNAT Essay score
3. Interview score
4. Whether this applicant is offered a place at Downing College
5. Whether this applicant was put in the Winter Pool for other college to consider.

B.

Furthermore, I request the following information for each applicant who applied to a different college other than Downing College but were offered a place at Downing College. Please provide following in anonymised entry to avoid individuals being identified.

1. LNAT Multiple Choice Questions score
2. LNAT Essay score
3. Interview score
4. Whether this applicant is offered a place at Downing College
5. Whether this applicant applied to a different college other than Downing College.

The disclosure of the above data will not reveal information that relates to and identifies another individual because the LNAT essay score and interview score are not information that the person making this request may have or may get hold of. The above two requests are made for information to be provided in entries with name deleted, i.e. anonymised entries, so third-party information does not form part of the requested information.

Response

Thank you for your FoI request to Downing College concerning students who made an application to study Law at Downing College in 2023 for 2024 entry.

The information you have requested is part of the ongoing admissions cycle that is not expected to finish before August at the earliest. Downing considers that the disclosure of statistics about applications made within the current cycle would be likely to prejudice the notion of a fair and confidential admissions process which form a fundamental part of our mission as an educational institution. Therefore, we believe this information is exempt under section 36(2c) (prejudice to effective conduct of public affairs). Please be aware, statistical information about previous admissions cycles is published by the University for all the colleges at <https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/apply/statistics>.

24-09 TMUA and A-Level raw scores for Maths candidates

I am looking into applying to study Mathematics at the University of Cambridge. I believe that undergraduate mathematics candidates are invited to send in their TMUA scores if they wish. Additionally, I believe that those candidates who just missed their offer are invited to send their raw A-Level scores in. As such, I would be very grateful if you could tell me the TMUA and A-Level raw scores of the mathematics undergraduate intake for 2022 and 2023 who attained 2 & 2, 2 & 3, or 3 & 2 in STEP (ii) and STEP (iii).

Response

Thank you for your request to Downing College which we are treating as a request under the Freedom of Information Act. I can confirm that we don't hold any data for Maths students with those STEP scores, so I am unable to help you any further with your request.

24-10 Accommodation stats since 2011

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

Could you please provide the following information:

1. Snapshot of student numbers in each college residence/accommodation in October for every year between 2011 and 2023
2. The accommodation fee structure per residence/accommodation for every year between 2011 and 2023

Response

Thank you for your FoI request to Downing College concerning accommodation statistics since 2011. I can provide you with the following answers to your questions.

Q1. Student numbers in College residence/accommodation in October from 2011

October	UG	PG	Total
2011	379	123	502
2012	376	120	496
2013	374	107	481
2014	375	95	470
2015	380	112	492
2016	408	121	529

2017	421	125	546
2018	422	122	544
2019	404	168	572
2020	423	94	517
2021	413	176	589
2022	416	168	584
2023	416	178	594

Q2. The accommodation fee structure per residence/accommodation since 2011.

The rents are charged over a number of different bands, thirteen in total. Within this banding structure, JCR and MCR representatives agree, in consultation with the College, how pricing should be distributed and which rooms should be assigned which band. This is generally according to facilities (i.e. ensuite) and can change each year to reflect the condition of the rooms as they age/are refurbished.

24-11 College disciplinary procedures

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

Could you please provide the following pieces of information:

1. A flowchart of how the college disciplinary procedure works, including:

- a) Who has access to the reporting student's information at each stage in the process.
- b) Whether reporting students are signposted to OSCCA (the Office for Student Conduct, Complaints and Appeals) at any stage in this process, and if so when.
- c) Whether there is a specific college procedure involving the conduct of someone from another college, especially if misconduct occurred on the college site.
- d) What information is available to people looking to report sexual misconduct and racial/religious discrimination on the college's website and college intranet? Please link resources and/or policies if they are available.

ANS: We don't have a flowchart, but please see procedures for complaints on our website which hopefully answers your questions: [Suggestions and complaints | Downing College Cambridge](#). This outlines our formal and informal complaints procedures through each stage.

2. What specific support the college has set up for people going through a disciplinary procedure? This should include:

- a) Details of staff training.
- b) Whether pastoral members of staff are able to accompany students to a panel, and if so which pastoral staff.
- c) Details of the college's current harassment and discrimination lead or equivalent.

ANS: Please see answer above, website: [Suggestions and complaints | Downing College Cambridge](#). Please also see the College Statutes and Ordinances: [Statutes and ordinances | Downing College Cambridge](#)

3. Details of the composition of a college disciplinary panel, where applicable, including, but not limited to:

- a) The size of the panel, and the size of the pool of potential panel members.
- b) Whether the panel contains student representation, and if so how this representation is decided.
- c) What training panel members receive in advance of participating in a disciplinary panel.

d) Whether disciplinary panels also deal with student complaints about staff conduct, and who is responsible for handling complaints about staff.

ANS: As above, question 2. For example, please see 'Ordinance Relating to the Disciplinary Committee', p.26-27, Downing College Ordinances.

4. Whether training and/or guidance is offered to college clubs and societies, and whether societies registered with the college use or are signposted to the college or university disciplinary procedure.

ANS: No, but students are signposted to College policies as part of their matriculation.

5. Whether the college uses any form of mechanism such as 'confidentiality clauses' which prevents or limits students from publicly or privately discussing details of their case at any stage of the process.

ANS: No, not that we are aware of.

6. a) Whether any member of the college can impose precautionary measures in the event of a student disclosing harms to be investigated by a college or OSCCA?

b) If applicable, how many times these precautionary measures have been imposed in the last five years.

ANS: Yes, fewer than five cases in the past five years.

7. Details of the frequency of college disciplinary proceedings, including

a) The number of disciplinary procedures and panels that have occurred per year over the last five years (academic years 2018/19 – 2022/23 inclusive). Please use multiples of five to prevent cases being identified (e.g. 2018/19: 5-10).

ANS: Fewer than five panels in the past five years.

b) The number of the above cases involving sexual misconduct.

ANS: Fewer than five cases in the past five years.

c) The number of the above cases involving racial/religious harassment or discrimination.

ANS: Fewer than five cases in the past five years.

d) The number of cases resulting in the suspension of study/forced intermission in the last five years.

ANS: Zero cases.

e) The number of cases resulting in a student being expelled/'sent down' in the last five years.

ANS: Zero cases.

f) The number of cases resulting in a student being banned from a college space in the last five years.

ANS: Fewer than five cases in the past five years.

24-12 College disciplinary procedures and stats

I am looking into disparities in disciplinary procedures across the Cambridge colleges, both in policy and in the application of this policy, since the collegiate system naturally creates variance in the resolution of complaints made against students and their behaviour. I am collecting this data in order to see the ways in which each college deals with complaints brought against students either by other students or members of staff, in particular with regards to the forms of punishment or reprimand given out and measures put in place to prevent further actions.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am making this request to view the data held by the college regarding its disciplinary procedure and statistics relating to the implementation of this procedure. Could you please provide the following points of information, in all cases giving data broken down into the academic years 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23, and if possible also for the current year, 2023-24 :

- (1) How many times has the college's disciplinary procedure been required through a complaint initiated by student, staff, or other? Of these, how many have been dismissed without action after investigation?

ANS: Please be aware of information on our website concerning disciplinary procedures: [Suggestions and complaints | Downing College Cambridge](#). This outlines our formal and informal complaints procedures through each stage. Please also see the College Statutes and Ordinances: [Statutes and ordinances | Downing College Cambridge](#), and for example, see 'Ordinance Relating to the Disciplinary Procedure', p.26-27, Downing College Ordinances.

Please note, there have been fewer than five formal complaints initiated by students and involving disciplinary panels since 2020.

- (2) How many complaints have been brought forward of each of the following categories: bullying or intimidatory behaviour; racist behaviour; sexist behaviour; negative behaviour against another protected characteristic aside from race or gender; academic misdemeanour or cheating; drug use; smoking or vaping outside designated areas; noise violations or parties held in accommodation; sexual assault; physical violence; or if a substantial number of complaints fall into a category not listed here, please specify.

ANS: Fewer than five formal complaints related to students in any category since 2020.

- (3) Please provide information relating to the final outcome or punishment (if applicable) for these complaints, including but necessarily limited to the following categories: expulsion from the university; report to the police or other public service; ban from college grounds; ban from college accommodation; ban from certain areas or events/ activities in college; intermission or move to another college; sexual harassment course; fine; written warning; apology required from student.

ANS: Fewer than five related to students in any category.

No student has been expelled/'sent down' or suspended from studying as an outcome since 2020.

Fewer than five have been banned from a College space since 2020. Student fines average from £20-£40 and are usually suspended in the first instance.

- (4) Please provide the average time taken between initial complaint made and the matter being officially resolved.

ANS: We don't record that information.

24-13 College spend on wine since 2019

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act. I would like to know the following.

The amount of money spent each year since 2019 on wine by the college.

- I would like the information to be presented in a spreadsheet, detailing how much the college spent on wine in each year. Please provide as much detail as possible as to what events and occasions individual wine orders were required for.

- Please also include the brand of wine ordered, where the information is held.

Response

Thank you for your FoI request to Downing College concerning how much the College has spent on wine since 2019. Please be advised that we purchase our alcohol from a wide range of suppliers and sometimes

together with our non-alcoholic drinks. We also do not collect invoice figures broken down by specific beverages, so I am unable to provide you with the specific answer to your question. However, I am able to give you a broad idea of the total money the College spent on alcohol each year since 2019, but please be aware of the following information when viewing these figures:

- Downing has a significant conference and events business, and alcohol is purchased for these.
- Many student events serve alcohol, for example at matriculation and on graduation day; formal halls; other reception events.
- The numbers also include Development events for alumni and fundraising purposes, e.g. Donors' garden parties.
- Student bar purchases account for on average 25% of each of these yearly totals.

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
£115,475	£68,471	£25,152	£96,332	£125,725

24-14 College Transitioning policies

I hope this finds you well. I am writing under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request information.

I would like to ask for any internal college briefings or meeting minutes of college authorities which include discussion of the college's policy towards transgender or gender questioning students. I would like to ask for this to span the time between January 1, 2020 and the date this request is received.

Response

Thank you for your FoI request to Downing College concerning any internal College briefings or meeting minutes of College authorities with discussion of the College's policy towards transgender or gender questioning students since 2020. After a search of our records we are unable to find any such discussions or minutes concerning this policy since 2020. However, I am able to provide you with the following information, which I hope is of interest.

We are aware that those undergoing Gender Reassignment form a Protected Group under the Equality Act 2010 providing them with protection from unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation to all individuals who intend to live their lives permanently as a different gender from their sex at birth. Should students advise Downing's Tutorial Office of a change of gender we work with them and the University to update the relevant fields in the student record. Students can decide to have the gender change applied to the entire record, including the date of change, or keep the earlier record in the previous gender.

Our website [About Downing | Downing College Cambridge](#) makes clear that *'Downing College is a unique academic community: diverse, close-knit and committed. The College's purpose is to provide a world-class education to the students with the most potential in each subject, whatever their means or social background. We believe that all forms of discrimination – by colour, by gender, by social background or by sexual orientation - are unacceptable. We are a diverse and welcoming scholarly community...'*

The College has various policies: [Downing College policies | Downing College Cambridge](#) such as Student Dignity, Safeguarding and the Harassment and Sexual Misconduct Policies. There is also a fund of £1500

established by the JCR to support the wellbeing of LGBT+ UG students at Downing and students can apply to this for therapy costs, gender affirming clothes, travel to clinics etc. Anyone who identifies as LGBT+ can apply for up to £50. The fund was £1,500 which is the largest out of all LGBT+ specific funds in Cambridge colleges: [College Support | Downing College Cambridge](#).

24-15 Frontline welfare staff recruitment and training

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

I am writing to you on the back of a 'safety in colleges forum' that was hosted on 12/03, during which students raised serious concerns about porter recruitment and training. A story in Varsity last week detailed profiling by frontline welfare staff and its concerning impact on student mental health. We have been tasked by students to get more information about the recruitment, training and professional background of college porters.

With this in mind, could you please provide the following pieces of information:

- (1) How many porters have been recruited since 2020? Please attach any candidate information packs or equivalent relating to porter recruitment issued since 2020.
ANS: Downing have recruited 2 duty porters in this time.

- (2) Details of any mandatory training undertaken by College porters, and additional training available to porters and frontline welfare staff.
 - All porters recruited attend a 3-day First Aid at Work course. They must pass a written and physical test. They attend 2-day refresher courses every 3 years.
 - They are trained to use epi pens and defibrillators during this course.
 - All porters attend Mental Health First Aid Training and subsequent refreshers every 3 years.
 - Evacuation Chair training is undertaken to help in an emergency.
 - Fire Warden training is delivered via an online module with test and a 75% minimum pass score.
 - Porters can sign up and attend voluntary welfare courses run by Cambridge University, this can range from additional mental health, welfare training and Ask Angela campaigns related to supporting our students in the night-time economy.
 - It's About Race 1 day course with an external trainer.
 - SP-EAK training for suicide prevention. Half day course delivered by Papyrus online. Then ongoing refreshers every 3 years.
 - Responding to student wellbeing and mental health. Course delivered by our Student Wellbeing Team every 3 years.
 - Prevent training.

- (3) i) the aggregate number of current college porters who have previously been employed by the armed forces or the police.
ANS: 1 out of 12 porters.
ii) the total number of porters currently employed by the college.
ANS: 12 porters.

- (4) The aggregate number of student complaints made to the college concerning porter conduct since 2020.

ANS: 0-5 minor complaints since 2020.

24-16 Student water bills

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

Could you please provide the following pieces of information:

1. A breakdown of the rates Cambridge Water has charged the college each year for the past 10 years.
2. The system by which the College is charged the water bills for student accommodation, whether by unmetered charges based on the rateable value of the property, metered charges, or assessed charges.
3. The proportion of student accommodation costs which go towards water bills and, if this has changed over the past 10 years, a breakdown of the proportions from the past 10 years.

Please note I am not seeking information which would put you in breach of competition laws. I am seeking to find out how much water costs affect student rents.

Response

Thank you for your FoI request to Downing College concerning water costs associated to student accommodation costs. The first point to note is that our accommodation costs are all inclusive, so there is no separate water bill for students. We charge a fixed, all-inclusive College Rent with 'no hidden extras'.

Concerning how an increase in the water rate may have affected student accommodation charges, please note we use a number of water and sewerage suppliers and Cambridge Water only supply some of the properties on the domus. We also generally receive water bills 'for the domus' which obviously includes non-student usage, such as the kitchens, gardens, staff, and conferencing guests (who use student accommodation). Therefore, we do not have the information to enable us to split the costs for water supplied to the domus and assign it directly to student accommodation costs.

24-17 Downing's maintenance management system

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act regarding the maintenance systems and associated software used within your facilities.

Specifically, I would like to request the following information:

1. The name(s) of the software used for maintenance management systems (Typically known as CMMS, EAM, Asset Management, Facilities Management) within the facility.
ANS: Microsoft SharePoint.
2. The number of users licensed to use the maintenance management system software.
ANS: 120 A5 licences; 60 A1 licences.
3. The annual cost associated with the maintenance management system software.
ANS: Bundled into the licence renewal.

4. The individual or department responsible for managing and overseeing the maintenance management system software.
ANS: Downing IT Department.
5. The expiration date of the current contract(s) for the maintenance management system software.
ANS: 3-yearly Microsoft licence renewal, due October 2026.

24-18 College catering subsidies

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information. Please may you provide me with:

1. The amount of money the college spent on subsidising catering costs in the previous academic year. (please include all costs, such as canteen food expenditure, formal dinners, drinks receptions etc).
2. The loss made by the college on catering costs i.e money not recuperated through any applicable fees.

Response

Thank you for your FOI request to Downing College concerning catering costs and any subsidies provided by the College. Please refer to our already published information in our Annual Report and Accounts 2023 [Accounts 2023.pdf \(cam.ac.uk\)](#) and pages 58 and 60.

Under note 2. *Income from accommodation, catering and conferences: Catering – College Members* [so students] (p.56) see the figures for 2023 and 2022. Then on p.60, under note 5. *Accommodation, catering and conferences expenditure: Catering – College Members* [so students] note the figures for 2023 and 2022. The difference is in effect any College subsidy provided for this service, which in 2023 was £494,000.

24-19 Repatriation of art & artefacts and links to slavery

I am writing under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request information regarding your archive. I am investigating the history of Cambridge.

Please could you provide the following information:

1. Details and a copy of any requests made to the College regarding the repatriation of items owned by the college.
ANS: No requests made for repatriation.
2. A list of any items that have been or are in the process of repatriation.
ANS: No items for repatriation.
3. A list of any items known to have links to colonialism, imperialism or slavery.
ANS: Please see details as follows.
[LIBRARY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS \(RARE BOOKS\)](#)
Items relating to Sir George Downing, 1st Baronet's diplomatic activities.
As Resident in The Hague and Commissioner of Customs, Sir George Downing, 1st Bt (grandfather of the College's Founder) was heavily involved in protecting British trade interests against the Dutch.

Throughout the 1670s, he was an adviser to the Lords of Trade and Plantations, although no evidence was found during Legacies of Enslavement research (details below) to suggest he was directly involved in the slave trade or colonial plantations personally.

Cuttle 118

Downing, George, Sir, 1623?-1684 Sir George Downing. Letterbook 1658.

This letterbook details the 1st Bt's daily activities as Ambassador to the United Provinces.

Cuttle 112-14, 116-17, 119 and 339

Various pamphlets relating to the activities of Sir George Downing, 1st Bt, as Resident in The Hague.

ART COLLECTION

Picture 10

Portrait of Sir George Downing, 1st Bt (on loan from Harvard University)

Ambassador to the United Provinces, Resident at The Hague.

Picture 19 and 20

- Portrait of George Alexander Fullerton (1775-1847)
Heir to the Jamaica estates of Alexander Fullerton, below
 - Portrait of Alexander Fullerton of Ballintry Castle, Co Antrim (d.1805)
(NB: A mistake recording incorrect biographical information, about another relative with a similar name, meant that this sitter has only recently been identified)
- These two paintings are on long-term loan (with several others) from a descendant of a separate* branch of the Fullerton/Downing family.
**Genealogical research commissioned by the owner of these several years ago concluded that this branch was totally unrelated to the Downing family who founded the College.*

No artefacts in the College art and artefacts collection are known to fall under the scope of this enquiry.

ARCHIVE COLLECTION

The 2022 Legacies of Enslavement report (<https://www.dow.cam.ac.uk/news/downing-publishes-legacies-enslavement-report>) detailed research undertaken into the Downing family which founded the College. The majority of sources, referenced within, were from external sources not held by the College. The College Archive does hold various original items relating generally to Sir George Downing, 1st Bt (the grandfather of the Founder), but the College Archivist is not aware of any items in the Archive directly related to his diplomatic activities. (Further research, focused on Downing College and its members, is only in its early stages and is intended for publication in 2025.)

Papers of Admiral Sir Herbert Richmond (1871-1946)

Vere Harmsworth Prof. of Imperial and Naval History, 1934-6, and Master of Downing, 1936-46.

Personal papers, including manuscripts of books published on the British Empire:

https://archivesearch.lib.cam.ac.uk/repositories/12/archival_objects/674145.

4. Details and a copy of any complaints made to the College regarding items displayed or owned by the college. For example, requests for the removal of statues or portraits in the College of infamous figures.

ANS: No complaints on record.

24-20 Catering pricing and charges

I am writing under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request information regarding your spending. I am investigating the cost of living at Cambridge.

Could you please provide the following pieces of information for both the academic year 2018/2019, and the current academic year 2023/2024. If any of these values differ across the year, then please provide either the mean amount, or the amount in Lent term 2019 and Lent term 2024.

1. A price list for the catered food served in College. If this differs meal-by-meal, then please provide a sample menu of a typical week from the time period, with prices attached.

ANS: An average meal currently costs £4.90, which is our meal deal and includes a main course and two sides. In 2019 the meal deal was £4.00. Current itemised prices are shown on any of the Kafoodle menus. Please follow the link: <https://wba.kafoodle.com/17260>

2. The price list for drinks and food at the College Bar.

ANS: Bar prices for 2019 and 2024 are attached.

3. The cost of a standard formal dinner, without any additional add-ons. Please also specify if this price includes alcoholic drinks. 'Add-ons' here refers to any extra costs that may be chosen by the guest, such as wine or coffee. If any such are available, please detail their cost.

ANS: 2018/19: £9.95 per meal only. See prices for 2023-24 below from our website. Prices are for the meal only without any 'add-ons' or alcoholic drinks.

CATERING CHARGES 2023-24	£
JCR Formal Hall	12.45 (student) 18.40 (guest)
MCR Formal Hall	11.95 (student) 17.90 (guest)
JCR Feast Night Formal	13.45 (student) 19.90 (guest)
MCR Feast Night Formal	12.95 (student) 19.40 (guest)
Private Formal Hall	33.00
Typical average meal charge	6.50

CATERING CHARGES 2023-24	£
Meal surcharge for guests	25%

4. A list of any additional charges billed to undergraduates as standard on an annual, termly or weekly basis. 'Additional' here refers to a charge that is not rent for accommodation, such as an Establishment Charge, Catering Charge or Kitchen Fixed Charge. This also includes other charges such as that for laundry, alumni societies or emergency travel funds. Please provide the sum billed to each student per year/term/week under such a charge.

ANS: Our accommodation costs are all inclusive. We charge a fixed, all-inclusive College Rent with 'no hidden extras'. All electricity, heating, water, and network services are included. We do not charge a termly catering facilities charge. One other charge made currently to students is for membership of the College: the Downing Alumni Association. Please note, 2023-24 is the final year for this charge, so from 2024-25 there is no charge.

2018-2019

UG - £3.50 per term for nine terms.

PG (PhD) - £3.50 per term for nine terms.

PG (one year courses) - £10.50 per term for three terms.

2023/24

UG + PG - £36 one-off charge on the first College bill.

24-21 Funding for ADHD and autism

1. I would like to know whether Downing college contributes any funding towards diagnoses of ADHD and autism carried out by Accessibility and Disability Resource Centre (ADRC) at Cambridge, for students belonging to the college.

ANS: Yes, the College refer a student to the ADRC if they have provided the College Nurse with a supporting letter from their GP to confirm that they are recommending an assessment.

2. If the answer to the above question is yes, I would like to know the percentage or amount of funding that is contributed towards the diagnoses and if a student needs to meet any criteria (please specify the criteria) in order to be eligible for the funding.

ANS: If a student uses an ADRC recommended assessor the College support the cost of an assessment to the sum of £525.

3. I would like to know whether the college funds any alternative support for autism, ADHD or other learning difficulties, through routes other than the ADRC. For example, private diagnoses or online mental health services.

ANS: No, no alternative support other than the ADRC.

24-22 Law admissions statistics for 2024 entry

The information of other applicants that I am willing to have in redaction is identification information only, such as UCAS number or name. The information and document disclosure that I requested have been listed below again:

1. The Law gathered field ranking as used in 2023 for decision making with the following information attached or indicated for each applicant:
 - a. Scores for interview, LNAT, and all other components of consideration, as used in 2023 for decision making.
 - b. The admissions decision status for each applicant.
 - c. Interviewer's report for each applicant.

Response

Thank you for your request to Downing College for Law admissions statistics for 2024 entry, which we are dealing with under the Freedom of Information Act.

I note that you request the personal data, scores and interview notes, and require a line-by-line response for each individual applicant, including for those who were offered a place to study at Downing. Interview scores and notes are the applicant's personal data, and as Downing College is a small community there is the possibility that individuals' data even when redacted could be identified. Therefore, this information is exempt under FoI section 40(2) [personal data].

Furthermore, there has been a change of policy in the University since 2020, in response to reviewing and considering cases and feedback, and the Colleges are aligned with that position. The information you have requested is part of the ongoing admissions cycle that is not expected to finish before August at the earliest. Therefore, we believe this information is exempt under section 36(2)(b)(c) [prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs] and this is defensible and appropriate for the following reasons:

- the current admissions round is ongoing, and any statistics provided are subject to change – the information requested (e.g. the range of LNAT scores for successful applicants) may well change significantly at any point depending on these changes and therefore has no reliability until the admissions round is completed;
- the admissions round is ongoing in the sense that the College may make late offers in the next few months, in consideration of complaints or appeals, and later in the year because of the adjustment process;
- where individual students are concerned about their own results and outcomes, the College releases that personal data to them, and where appropriate provides context to explain the College's decisions in the result of their own information; and
- the College agrees with the University that the release of early and potentially inaccurate information to individuals, rather than the validated and confirmed statistics published to all by the University after the admissions round has concluded can potentially disrupt current and future admissions rounds, if current and potential applicants rely on that information. The University publishes extensive and robust data over a period of years to provide reliable context instead.

24-23 Downing Investments

I'm filing the following FOI:

1. From 1 January 2010 to 1 April 2024, has your college invested in any of the following companies (please specify which ones if so):
 - Elbit Systems

- Caterpillar Inc
 - J.C. Bamford
 - Chevron
 - HD Hyundai
 - Hikvision
 - Volvo
 - TKH Security
 - CAF
 - Barclays
2. How much money did your college invest in each of the companies from 1 January 2010 to 1 April 2024?
 3. Which of the companies is your college still investing in at the moment?

Response

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

General information regarding our investments can be found in our Annual Report and Accounts: [Accounts 2023.pdf \(cam.ac.uk\)](#). For a statement on our investment principles, please see p.19-21, and p.25. For the overall composition of our Investment Portfolio please see page 34.