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## FOI request

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Churchill Information <information@chu.cam.ac.uk>  
To: Sam Dunning <director@ukctransparency.org>

10 August 2023 at 10:56

Dear Sam,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request to Churchill College. Answers to each of your queries are below in red, and where further information is required by the query, please refer to the document attached to this email.

We have chosen to apply three exemptions to elements of your request. One of the items in the attachment is a prejudice test document, for the exemptions we have applied. One is absolute and two are qualified. Qualified exemptions, under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) require the opinion of a 'qualified individual'. Usually, for Oxbridge Colleges, this has been the Head of House. Our College Master has, therefore, been consulted in the formation of this document.

If you are not satisfied with the way in which this request has been handled, please address your complaint to the Bursar, Churchill College. If the College is unable to resolve your complaint to your satisfaction, you have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner (<https://ico.org.uk/>).

All best wishes,



1. Details (amount given, date given, terms [if any]) of any sums of money given to the college by Fu Xiaotian and any trust, company, foundation controlled by her.

*The memorandum of understanding between Xiaotian Fu and the College (see attached) specifies that we will keep confidential the total amount of Ms Fu's donation. We have, therefore, applied an exemption under Section 41 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please see the attached document entitled 'prejudice test'.*

*We can confirm that Ms Fu agreed to donate a sum of money to the College over the course of five years, starting from 2016, from herself personally. This donation was used to cover the landscaping and*

*planting of a garden in her name and to provide funds for student support for postgraduates, at the College's discretion.*

*Xiaotian Fu contributed to two general appeals, which were not done in confidence. She gave £1,000 to the College in 2019 as part of our fundraising for a book on the College grounds, and £5,700 in 2021 as part of an appeal for tree donations.*

2. Emails sent between college staff and Ms Fu and/or her agents regarding these sums or any other matters.

*We have chosen to apply the exemption under Section 43(2) to this item. The College believes such a disclosure would represent a real harm to our commercial interests. Please see our attached prejudice test. We also note the relevance of Section 41 in this case and direct you to a recent ICO decision notice where a similar case involving an Oxford College was upheld (IC-153644-G0J2).*

3. The budget for the garden, and/or the cost of its design and upkeep to the College so far.

*The cost of the landscaping and planting of the garden was £61,200, rounded to the nearest hundred. The funds all came from Ms Fu's donation.*

4. Information regarding whether Ms Fu requested a garden or whether there were any terms associated with, or requests made alongside, her donation/gifts/grants (sums given by her to the College).

*Ms Fu wished to donate to support students, and part of this support for the student body included the establishment of a garden. As described in the MOU, Ms Fu wished to fund "a restful and peaceful place for private contemplation and study" for students and Fellows of the College.*

*A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the College and Xiaotian Fu at the time, and the terms agreed in this document (signed by Ms Fu and the Master of the College) can be found in the attached PDF.*

5. Any notes or reports submitted to the governing body of the College - or any of its committees - and/or the College Council regarding due diligence on Ms Fu's donation.

*Ms Fu's donation did not meet the threshold for close investigation of an alumni donation under the College's procedure in 2016.*

*Council was advised of the fact that Xiaotian Fu was an alumna of the College, donating as a private individual.*

*There were no reports, therefore, submitted to Council.*

6. Any minutes of the College's governing body and/or the College Council that discuss Ms Fu, any entity controlled by her, or her/its giving in any respect.

*Please see attached file. This has been appropriately redacted to remove information relating to other funds discussed under the same item as the Xiaotian Fu Garden, to remove the personal data of others, and to remove references which provide the full total of Ms Fu's donation.*

*The College has supplied as many minutes as possible but is applying the exemption under Section 36 (prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs) to withhold minutes which contain more detailed discussion. Specifically, we refer to the section around "the free and frank exchange of views for the purposes of deliberation". Please see the prejudice test document.*

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Churchill College  
Cambridge CB3 0DS

*My usual working days are Monday-Thursday*

Registered Charity: No 1137476

Churchill College takes its responsibilities to protect your data seriously. The College's data protection privacy statements are available online at <https://www.chu.cam.ac.uk/about/official-documents/data-protection-statements/>

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**From:** Sam Dunning <director@ukctransparency.org>  
**Sent:** 19 July 2023 14:35  
**To:** Churchill Information <information@chu.cam.ac.uk>  
**Subject:** FOI request

To whom it may concern,

My name is Sam Dunning and I am the director of UK-China Transparency, a registered charity. This is an FOI request.

The college's website states of the Xiaotian Fu Garden:

*"This new garden, which is in the process of maturation, is located in the former private garden 72 Storey's Way, part of the College's postgraduate accommodation. It is named after Ms Xiaotian Fu (PG06) who, in 2016 pledged a series of generous gifts to support the College's mission to advance education, learning and research."*

Please provide:

1 Details (amount given, date given, terms [if any]) of any sums of money given to the college by Fu Xiaotian and any trust, company, foundation controlled by her.

2 Emails sent between college staff and Ms Fu and/or her agents regarding these sums or any other matters.

3 The budget for the garden, and/or the cost of its design and upkeep to the College so far.

4 Information regarding whether Ms Fu requested a garden or whether there were any terms associated with, or requests made alongside, her donation/gifts/grants (sums given by her to the College).

5 Any notes or reports submitted to the governing body of the College - or any of its committees - and/or the College Council regarding due diligence on Ms Fu's donation.

6 Any minutes of the College's governing body and/or the College Council that discuss Ms Fu, any entity controlled by her, or her/its giving in any respect.

Thank you.

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**Sam Dunning**

Director

UK-China Transparency

[www.ukctransparency.org](http://www.ukctransparency.org)

(Charity number 1201902)



**DUNNING UKCT FOI - Attachments.pdf**

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