

ROBINSON COLLEGE – FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

Answers to Approval Questionnaire

1. Robinson College is committed to a policy of openness both with its members and towards the outside public, and welcomes the Freedom of Information Act. The College Council recognises its responsibility to publish information which it regards to be of public interest. The publication scheme has been prepared after reviewing existing documentation, and noting the type and volume of requests for information the College currently receives. The scheme has been discussed and approved by the College Council.
2. The scheme provides access to all written policies and provides information about the College, its Fellows, Senior Members, academic staff and its facilities. Most of the decisions taken by the College relate either to personal information or to commercial information and are therefore exempt from the Freedom of Information Act. The publication scheme does not therefore provide access to records of those decisions or the information on which they were based.
3. The most frequently received questions concern admissions, and the College has addressed this by including full information on admissions to the College in the publication scheme. The College is, of course, committed to seeking applications from students with the highest potential and has a strong interest in making information on admissions as widely available and in as user-friendly a form as possible. The College has received a few enquiries about the construction and architecture of the buildings. The College has received no enquiries in recent times about governance or finance.
4. The publishing scheme makes Staff policies publicly available for the first time; these include Health and Safety, training and all policies required under current employment legislation.
5. Our publication scheme reflects the relatively limited “public interest” that the scheme should have regard to. It is the College’s intention, in accordance with the Act, to keep the scheme under review and modify it in the light of its own and other similar institutions’ experience. Other information outside the scheme is available on the College web site. This has a myriad of information which is constantly expanding and it is not possible to characterise this in a publishing scheme.
6. We have not so far taken any steps to produce this publication in alternative formats but would be happy to review this if enquiries suggested a need.