



Workshop: compiling data

The mission:

- Learn techniques for working with **mass FOI responses**
- Learn techniques for **compiling exclusive data**
- ...and **have some stories** by the end of the class

What are we learning?

- FOI responses are **messy** ('dirty data')
- **Communication** is vital in a team
- Need to make frequent **editorial decisions** about scope of project
- Need to ensure that is **recorded and communicated** in the story

First...

- If you have multiple responses, **I've already inputted one of them** (look for your name in the spreadsheet)
- **Listen carefully** — that's part of the communication bit...

Inputting FOI data: councils

- Find your latest response on **WhatDoTheyKnow**
- Open the [shared spreadsheet](#) on Moodle
- NOTE: It has **two sheets** for data entry:
 - Pitches
 - Fees
- There is already a row for each FOI you sent

ASK if it's mixed data

- E.g. ranges (they are not numbers)
- We make a decision: enter upper figure

	Number of grass pitches available for hire	Cost (dependent on pitch quality)
2023/24	26	352-398
2022/23	26	333-376
2021/22	26	315-355
2020/21	26	300-335 (no increase due to pandemic)
2019/20	26	300-335
2018/19	26	283-316

ASK if it's complicated

	A	B
1	FOOTBALL - Saturday	Charge 2018/19
2		
3	Senior Match & changing facilities	£86.00
4	Junior Match & changing facilities	£37.50
5	Small Sided Match & changing facilities	£21.00
6	Senior Match no changing facilities	£43.00
7	Junior Match no changing facilities	£27.50
8	Small Sided Match & no changing facilities	£15.50
9		
10	Seasonal Licence* with facilities	
11	Senior	£1,942.50
12	Junior	£845.25
13	Small Sided Match & changing facilities	£483.00
14	Seasonal Licence* without facilities	
15	Senior	£829.50
16	Junior	£404.25
17	Small Sided Match & no changing facilities	£199.50
18		
19	FOOTBALL - Sunday (AM = game finishes upto & including 11.59am; PM = game starts from 12 noon onwards)	
20		
21	Senior Match & changing facilities - PM	£108.00
22	Senior Match and changing Faculties - AM	£124.00
23	Junior Match & changing facilities	£49.25
24	Small Sided Match & changing facilities	£26.25
25		
26	Senior Match no changing facilities - PM	£54.50

ASK ANYWAY*.

*Did I mention communication is important?

Our notes so far:

- “The analysis looked at pitches and fees for 11-a-side pitches only. Where pitches were allocated to senior or junior football, we looked at junior football only.
- “Where there were different charges for pitches with and without changing facilities, we used fees for pitches without changing facilities.
- “Where there were different charges for different days or locations, we included all days and locations.
- “Where a range was given rather than a single number, we used the uppermost value.

Now start entering...

- We are only going to enter data for **11v11 pitches**
- If they have **no information** (because they didn't have any info) add details in Notes and let me know
- If they **haven't responded** they are breaking the law: send a follow up message (WDTK will help). Add details in Notes and let me know.
- If they **provided information** enter it.
- **CALL ME OVER IF YOU ARE UNSURE IN ANY WAY**

Then enter fees data

- Again, we are only going to enter data for **11v11 pitches**
- You might need extra rows for different categories/pitches
- **CALL ME OVER IF YOU ARE UNSURE IN ANY WAY**

What do we have?

- We can now calculate change
- We can write a SUM formula: total pitches per year etc.

Midlands football pitches drop by X in 5 years

The number of football pitches across the East and West Midlands has dropped by at least __, according to an *investigation/analysis* by Birmingham Eastside.

...

The figures — based on responses to XX Freedom of Information requests — revealed...

or: Call for football pitches to be protected from cuts

A Midlands football association/club director/other person of authority has called for _____ after an exclusive analysis by Birmingham Eastside revealed the number of pitches has dropped by X% in five years.

...

The figures — based on responses to XX Freedom of Information requests — revealed...

Previously...

We compiled our own data

- Which suppliers schools recommended. Are they the cheapest?
- Should be on their website's uniform policy
- So we searched for the websites...

Cost of school uniforms

Where a school's uniform policy includes a branded item, the governing board should ensure a written contract is in place with their supplier for these items.

Governing boards should be able to demonstrate that they have obtained the best value for money from suppliers. Any savings negotiated with suppliers should be passed on to parents. Governing boards should not enter into cashback arrangements.

Governing boards should ensure that suppliers continue to provide good value for money throughout the duration of the contract.

Bartley Green School uniform policy



All



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[Pupils at School Medical Conditions](#) · **[Uniform Policy](#)**.



Bartley Green School

ASPIRATION · ACHIEVEMENT · ACCEPTANCE · RESPECT · RESILIENCE · REWARD

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Information

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School Policies (click to view)

[ACCESSIBILITY PLAN](#)

[ANTI BULLYING POLICY](#)

[ATTENDANCE POLICY](#)

[BEHAVIOUR AND EXCLUSION POLICY](#)

[CHARGING AND REMISSIONS](#)

[DATA PROTECTION POLICY](#)

School Uniform Policy

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qb4Af5o4uR-d7RhK2YBxalHx7_HGLYmy/view

7. School Uniform Suppliers

The suppliers below stock Bartley Green School ties and uniform items that have the Bartley Green School logo, as well as non-branded uniform items:

- Clive Mark (Bearwood), 4-5 Three Shires Oak Road, Bearwood, B67 5AX
Tel: 0121 429 4244 www.clivemark.co.uk/collections/bartley-green-school
- Ace Embroidery <https://bgs.ace-online.co.uk/catalogue>
- Kids Essential (Northfield), 762 Bristol Road South, Northfield, B31 2NN
Tel: 0121 477 0736 www.kidssentialschoolwearbirmingham.co.uk/bartley-green-school-uniform-2/
- 3Q Sports – online only www.3Qsports.co.uk (non-branded/no logo PE kit only)

Uniform items requiring a school logo are kept to a minimum, many items can therefore be purchased from other stores such as supermarkets and high street shops.

Non-branded/no logo PE kit items are acceptable as long as they are in the same colour and style of BGS items. These non-branded/no logo items are more affordable and can be purchased from Clive Mark, Kids Essential and 3Q Sports.

8. Uniform Assistance

The school holds second-hand school uniforms in for parent/carers to access; access to these uniforms is available upon request made to reception. Parent/carers are invited to donate their child's uniform when they no longer need it. This service is stock dependent.

9. Non-compliance

Staff members are permitted to discipline pupils for breaching this policy, in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy.

Some Birmingham parents pay over £20 for a single PE shirt

Updated: Jan 15, 2023

New data collected from 52 Birmingham secondary schools shows a £20 gap between the cheapest and most expensive PE shirts.

<https://nathanjhogg.wixsite.com/my-site/post/some-birmingham-parents-pay-over-20-for-a-single-pe-shirt>

Note: headline needs rewriting for clarity (intro is clearer) - the angle is not that they pay “over £20”, it’s that some parents pay £20 *more than parents in other schools* to kit their kids

Schools overcharging for uniforms in Birmingham as worst are named

Schools turn blind eye to government guidance for parents to receive best value for money on uniforms

Bookmark



SH

Several schools in Birmingham are charging up to £30 for pieces of school uniform, a data investigation by the [Local Democracy Reporting Service](#) (LDRS) has found.

The investigation, in collaboration with Birmingham City University, shows Bishop Vesey grammar school, based in [Sutton Coldfield](#), are charging parents £28 for a training shirt. The price is three times as much as schools such as Hodge Hill College, in Washwood Heath, who charge a minimum fee of £6.50.

Labour says cap on school uniform items could save families £50 a child

Government plans to limit branded student kit to three articles, plus a tie, from September 2026 in England



<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2025/jan/08/labour-says-cap-on-school-uniform-items-could-save-families-50-a-child>

Now to compile more data

- Who is most expensive now?
- Who has the cost of living hit most?
- Our scope: “sports kit” is too broad.
Look for “PE top/shirt”
- Price may differ depending on size, so
need MIN and MAX prices

	A	B	C	D	E	F	
1	School name	Inputted by	Item URL	MIN Price of training shirt	MAX Price of training shirt	Gender	C
5	Ark St Alban's Academy	PB	https://clivemark.co.uk/products/ark-st-albans-academy-pe-t-shirt-1	8.49	8.49	all	a
6	Aston Manor Academy	PB	https://www.gogna.me/aston-manor-academy-pe-polo/	14	18	all	a
7	Aston University Engineering Academy	PB	https://clivemark.co.uk/collections/aston-uni-engineering-academy/products/aston-university-engineering-academy-yr10-11-pe-polo	19.49	19.49	all	a
8	Bartley Green School	PB	https://www.3qsports.co.uk/brands/joma-football-teamwear/joma-desert-cotton-t-shirt-101739900-7xs?code=101739.350-XS	5.94	6.99	all	a
9			https://bgs.ace-online.co.uk/catalogue				

Inputting: school kit costs

- In [the spreadsheet](#), put your name down against at least two schools (to stop someone else entering data in the same rows).
- One school can have rows for multiple suppliers, so put your name for each supplier
- Visit the kit link, and enter the current prices for the smallest and largest kit

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1	Your name	School name	Website	Supplier name (one per row)	Supplier URL	MIN Price of training shirt	MAX Price of training shirt	Item URL	Notes	
2	Paul Bradshaw	Bartley Green School	https://www.bartleygreenschool.co.uk	3Q Sports	https://www.3qsports.co.uk	6.29		https://www.3qsports.co.uk	No 'unbranded' option - Joma	
3	Paul Bradshaw	Bartley Green School	https://www.bartleygreenschool.co.uk	Kids Essential	https://kidsessential.co.uk	17		https://kidsessential.co.uk	Official top	
4	Paul Bradshaw	Bartley Green School	https://www.bartleygreenschool.co.uk	Ace Embroidery	https://bgs.ace-online.co.uk	16.5	19.5	https://bgs.ace-online.co.uk	Official top	
5	Paul Bradshaw	Bartley Green School	https://www.bartleygreenschool.co.uk	Clive Mark	https://clivemark.co.uk	20.49		https://clivemark.co.uk	Official top	
6	Paul Bradshaw	North Birmingham Academy								

Bartley Green PE Top

Select a size

Select a qty

- ✓ Navy/Sky/White, 26/28" £16.50 (available to order)
- Navy/Sky/White, 30/32" £16.50 (available to order)
- Navy/Sky/White, 32/34" £16.50 (available to order)
- Navy/Sky/White, 34/36" £16.50 (available to order)
- Navy/Sky/White, 38/40" £18.75 (available to order)
- Navy/Sky/White, 42/44" £18.75 (available to order)
- Navy/Sky/White, 46/48" £18.75 (available to order)

Polyester Poloshirt with School logo embroidered



Bartley Green

Polyester poloshirt with



BARTLEY GREEN PE POLO SHIRT

£20.49



PE SHIRT - BARTLEY GREEN

£17.00

Tax included.

SIZE

26/28	30/32	34/36
38/40	42/44	46/48

<https://bgs.ace-online.co.uk/catalogue>
<https://kidsessentialsschoolwearbirmingham.co.uk/collections/secondary-schools-bartley-green-school/products/pe-shirt-bartley-green?variant=39590734856398>
<https://clivemark.co.uk/collections/bartley-green-school>

	A	B	C
1	School name	MIN of MIN Price	MIN of min Price
2	Archbishop Ilsey Catholic School	3.5	£3.50
3	Arena Academy	13.49	£12.99
4	Ark Boulton Academy	13	£13.00
5	Ark St Alban's Academy	8.49	£6.99
6	Aston Manor Academy	14	£14.00
7	Aston University Engineering Academy	19.49	£10.99
8	Bartley Green School	5.94	£6.29
9	Birmingham Ormiston Academy	0	£0.00
10	Bishop Challoner Catholic College	14.99	£12.55
11	Bishop Vesey's Grammar School (games)	30	£41.00
12	Bishop Vesey's Grammar School (PE)	16	£22.50

Rows Add

School name ×

Order Ascen... Sort by School ...

☒ Show totals

Columns Add

Values as: Columns dd

MIN Price of training : ×

Summarise by MIN Show as Default

min Price in 2023 ×

Summarise by MIN Show as Default

MAX Price of training ×

Summarise by MAX Show as Default

max price in 2023 ×

Summarise by MAX Show as Default

Pivot table:

- Rows: school name
- Values: MIN price, MIN in 2023
 - Change 'Summarise by' to MIN to show lowest value

This allows us to compare the minimum price for each school in 2024 with the minimum prices in 2023

	A	B	C	D	E
1	School name	MIN of MIN Price	MIN of min Price	MAX of MAX Pri	MAX of max price
2	Archbishop Ilsey Catholic School	3.5	£3.50	5.5	£6.50
3	Arena Academy	13.49	£12.99	14.49	£12.99
4	Ark Boulton Academy	13	£13.00	15	£13.00
5	Ark St Alban's Academy	8.49	£6.99	8.49	£8.49
6	Aston Manor Academy	14	£14.00	18	£18.00
7	Aston University Engineering Academy	19.49	£10.99	19.49	£19.49
8	Bartley Green School	5.94	£6.29	17	£20.49
9	Birmingham Ormiston Academy	0	£0.00	0	£0.00
10	Bishop Challoner Catholic College	14.99	£12.55	19.99	£19.99
11	Bishop Vesey's Grammar School (games)	30	£41.00	35	£49.50
12	Bishop Vesey's Grammar School (PE)	16	£22.50	23	£28.00

Rows Add

School name ×

Order

Sort by

Ascen...

School ...

☒ Show totals

Columns Add

Values as: Columns dd

MIN Price of training : ×

Summarise by

Show as

MIN

Default

min Price in 2023 ×

Summarise by

Show as

MIN

Default

MAX Price of training ×

Summarise by

Show as

MAX

Default

max price in 2023 ×

Summarise by

Show as

MAX

Default

...Expanding the pivot table:

- More Values: MAX price, MAX in 2023
 - Change 'Summarise by' to MAX to show highest value

This allows us to compare the max price for each school in 2024 with the minimum prices in 2023

F2 fx =B2-C2

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	School name	MIN of MIN Price	MIN of min Price	MAX of MAX Pri	MAX of max pr	£ change MIN	£ change MAX	% change MIN	% change MAX
2	Archbishop Ilsey Catholic School	3.5	£3.50	5.5	£6.50	£0.00	-£1.00	0.00%	-15.38%
3	Arena Academy	13.49	£12.99	14.49	£12.99	£0.50	£1.50	3.85%	11.55%
4	Ark Boulton Academy	13	£13.00	15	£13.00	£0.00	£2.00	0.00%	15.38%
5	Ark St Alban's Academy	8.49	£6.99	8.49	£8.49	£1.50	£0.00	21.46%	0.00%
6	Aston Manor Academy	14	£14.00	18	£18.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%	0.00%
7	Aston University Engineering Academy	19.49	£10.99	19.49	£19.49	£8.50	£0.00	77.34%	0.00%
8	Bartley Green School	5.94	£6.29	17	£20.49	-£0.35	-£3.49	-5.56%	-17.03%

Outside of the pivot table we can write formulae to calculate those differences in whole numbers

$$=B2-C2/C2$$

$$=D2-E2/E2$$

— and then use the results to calculate a % change:

$$=F2/C2$$

$$=G2/E2$$

Next steps:

You have the information to write **at least 4-5 stories**:

- 2 x **change** stories for each FOI (pitches + fees)
- 2 x **change or ranking** stories for all the FOI data
- A **change or ranking** story for the PE kit price data

Use other stories as a template to guide you. **Add vis, quotes, background context.** Send me a draft!

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Reading & directed study:

- Read one or more of the tip sheets on Moodle (they're [from the New York Times](#))
- Prepare material for the next class: a story draft, data analysis, draft visualisation, etc. Bring your spreadsheets and drafts!

How to: plan a journalism project that needs data entry

6 Replies



[This Panorama investigation](#) involved entering data from 144 FOI responses

Data-driven reporting regularly involves some form of data entry — some of the stories I've been involved with, for example, have included [entering information from Freedom of Information \(FOI\) requests](#), [compiling data from documents such as companies' accounts](#), or working with partners to [collect information from a range of sources](#).

ONLINE JOURNALISM

BLOG

A conversation.

<https://onlinejournalismblog.com/2020/01/29/how-to-plan-a-journalism-project-that-needs-data-entry/>