

As you will see from the enclosed letter, we have felt unable to offer [redacted] a place and we thought you might welcome some feedback on this decision. The candidate knows that we will be sending this information to you and you are of course welcome to discuss it with him as you see fit.

It is important to stress that each year we find ourselves turning down able candidates who have the potential to do well at Cambridge. Competition is intense and we have limited places. Our decisions are thus comparative rather than absolute – a sense that other candidates had the edge is not at all the same as saying that a rejected candidate was ‘not good enough’.

One interviewer felt that [redacted] natural home might well be a Politics course rather than one obliging him, initially at least, to range across other disciplines. He seemed very much less well informed (and enthusiastic) about issues in Sociology and Psychology. His answers generally seemed to lack the sharp focus of the strongest candidates.

I hope this is helpful. Do feel free to get back to us if you would like to discuss the matter further – preferably after the middle of January when the current admissions round will be slowing down. The Admissions Office will be extremely busy until then.

Yours sincerely