



Information Assurance and Governance
Office of the Principal

19 December 2019

Dear Ms Campion,

Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002
Our Ref: 473-19

I refer to your enquiry received on 29 November 2019 under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 ("the FOISA") asking to be supplied with information in relation to each candidate interviewed for the A100 medicine degree programme for 2018 and 2019 entry as outlined below.

- Fee status
- UCAT score
- Score for each station
- Score for SJT
- Whether they were successful in gaining an offer

Please find attached Appendix A which provides the following data for entry into academic year 2018/19 and 2019/20:

- Worksheet A - list of applicants who did not go on to register to study on the A100 medicine degree programme with details of fee status, UKCAT score and an indication of whether or not they were successful in gaining an offer.
- Worksheet B – number of entrants to the A100 medicine degree programme broken down by fee status and UKCAT score.

It has not been possible to provide data for entrants to the level of granularity requested as there is a risk that this could lead to the release of information that could be linked to an identifiable individual revealing information of a personal nature where there is no expectation of this happening. This would contravene data protection principle 1(a) in Article 5(1) of the General Data Protection Regulation i.e. that personal data shall be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner.

As an alternative, data has been presented in worksheet B in a different format for this cohort of students in such a way that the University believes, supplies as much detail as possible without impacting on the right to privacy of the individuals concerned. Section 38(1)(b), *Personal Information* of the FOISA is being applied to the information being withheld. This is an absolute exemption and not subject to the public interest test.

Information Assurance and Governance
01334 462776
foi@st-andrews.ac.uk

Information not held

As you will see from the enclosed Appendix, the University does not hold UKCAT data for all applicants. The following information is also not held by the University in a reportable format:

- Score for each interview station; and
- Score for SJT.

To provide the above data would require the cross-referencing of information held in a variety of different record series and the matching up of data in order to create a new dataset for interrogation. Further analysis would be required to enable reliable and meaningful data to be provided. To carry this exercise out involves a level of intellectual input which goes data retrieval resulting in the creation of new information which is out with the scope of the FOISA.

This view is consistent with that of the Scottish Information Commissioner in Decision Notice *036/2005 Mr George Munro and Inverclyde Council*, when the question as to what constitutes the creation of information was considered.

Section 17 of the FOISA requires that a Scottish public authority confirms in writing where information requested of it is not held and notice is therefore given in this respect.

Your right to seek a review of how your information request was managed

If you are not satisfied with the University's response and/or our reasoning set-out above, you have the right to request a review of our decision. The time lines in which this right is available are set out in section 20(5)(a) and (b) FOISA. In broad terms the right to seek a review must be exercised within 40 working days of receiving this response.

Any request for review should be put in writing or some other permanent form e.g. an e-mail and should be sent to the University of St Andrews, through the contact details provided below.

A request for a Review should:

- a) state your name and address;
- b) describe the nature of your original request; and
- c) explain the reasons why you are dissatisfied with our response.

Freedom of Information / Environmental Information

University of St Andrews

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St Andrews

Fife

KY16 9AJ

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Telephone +44(0)1334 462776

If you remain dissatisfied with how your request for information has been dealt with following Review, you also have the right to apply to the Scottish Information Commissioner (SIC) for a decision. In the event of an appeal to the SIC, the Commissioner will generally only be able to investigate the matters raised in the request for review.

Details on how to make an appeal online to the SIC can be found on their website: <http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/YourRights/Unhappywiththeresponse/AppealingtoCommissioner.aspx>

Alternatively, you can contact the SIC by post, telephone or email at:

Scottish Information Commissioner
Kinburn Castle
Doubledykes Road
St Andrews
Fife KY16 9DS

Telephone: 01334 464610

E-mail: enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info

Website: www.itspublicknowledge.info

This concludes the University's response.

Yours sincerely

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Information Assurance and Governance Officer

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