



Ref. FOI/20210328/1

28 April 2021

<b>Reply to request for information under the Freedom of Information Act</b>	
Your ref	Your emails (x12) of 28 <sup>th</sup> March
Request	SEE ANNEX

Dear Eric Nilsson / Ariyan Hoque

I write in reply to your emails of 28<sup>th</sup> March detailing 12 queries, which between them request the above information.

The data as disclosable is provided in the attached workbooks.

Your request, in part, is for detailed individual level data. We consider that disclosure of this information in the exact form requested might enable those with access to other information or knowledge to identify individuals and learn new information about those individuals e.g. those from the same school as the candidates. For this reason, we have taken a number of measures to reduce the risk of identification, including aggregating data in some areas, redacting numbers where 2 or fewer (including 0), and redacting or removing any average data relating to a cohort of 2 or fewer individuals.

In taking these measures, we are applying the exemption in section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Section 40(2) provides an exemption from disclosure for information that is the personal data of an individual other than the requester, where disclosure would breach any of the data protection principles in Article 5 of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). We consider that disclosure of the information requested in the exact form requested would breach the first data protection principle, which requires that personal data is processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner. Disclosure would be unfair to the individuals concerned, as it would be contrary to their reasonable and legitimate expectations. They would not reasonably expect that information relating to their application to Oxford would be made public under the FOIA without their consent.

For the disclosure of personal data to be lawful, it must have a lawful basis under Article 6 of the GDPR. There are six possible lawful bases in Article 6; we do not consider that any of them would be satisfied in respect of the disclosure.

The exemption in section 40(2) is an absolute exemption and is not subject to the public interest test provided for in section 2(2)(b) of the FOIA. To the extent that the public interest is relevant in this case, the University considers it is satisfied by the information provided.

## **INTERNAL REVIEW**

You may request an internal review of this response by e-mailing [foi@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:foi@admin.ox.ac.uk). A request for internal review should be submitted no later than 40 working days from the date of this letter.

**THE INFORMATION COMMISSIONER**

If, after the internal review, you are still dissatisfied, you have the right under FOIA to apply to the Information Commissioner for a decision as to whether your request has been dealt with in accordance with the FOIA. You can do this online using the [Information Commissioner's complaints portal](#).

Yours sincerely

**Information Compliance Team**

**ANNEX**

With respect to the following UG course:

- I. Biochemistry (Molecular and Cellular)
- II. Biology
- III. Biomedical Sciences
- IV. Chemistry
- V. Computer Science
- VI. Economics & Management
- VII. Engineering Science
- VIII. Law (Jurisprudence)
- IX. Mathematics
- X. Medicine
- XI. Physics
- XII. Psychology

Could you please provide the data for all home undergraduate applications in the past 5 complete application cycles separated by state and independent schools for the course:

1. The number of applicants, applicants interviewed and applicants given an offer separated by gender
2. The number of applicants, applicants interviewed and applicants given an offer separated by ethnicity

For the next two requests, please provide the average raw mark and average point-based score (if applicable where raw marks are converted and used in scoring system)

3. The average score on the admissions exam (separated by section if applicable) of all offer holders separated by gender
4. The average score on the admissions exam (separated by section if applicable) for each section of all offer holder separated by ethnicity

If they cannot be separated by state and independent schools, please provide any data stored.