



Ref. FOI/20180312/6

07 December 2018

Reply to request for information under Freedom of Information of Act	
Your Ref	Your email of 12 March 2018
Address	<a href="mailto:request-470255-cffef384@whatdotheyknow.com">request-470255-cffef384@whatdotheyknow.com</a>
Request	<p>May you provide me with the following information on PPE candidates applying for entry in 2015, 2016 and 2017:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) The total number of applicants to each college.</li><li>2) The average and 25% resp. 75% quartiles of TSA Problem Solving score of applicants to each college.</li><li>3) The average and 25% resp. 75% quartiles of TSA Critical Thinking score of applicants to each college.</li><li>4) The number of candidates shortlisted for interview at each college.</li><li>5) The average and 25% resp. 75% quartiles of TSA Problem Solving score of shortlisted candidates to each college.</li><li>6) The average and 25% resp. 75% quartiles of TSA Critical Thinking score of shortlisted candidates to each college.</li><li>7) The average interview score of candidates shortlisted at each college (including the average for each subject interview - Philosophy, Politics and Economics).</li><li>8) The number of offers made to candidates at each college.</li><li>9) The average and 25% resp. 75% quartiles of TSA Problem Solving score of candidates made offers by each college.</li><li>10) The average and 25% resp. 75% quartiles of TSA Critical Thinking score of candidates made offers by each college.</li><li>11) The average interview score of candidates made offers by each college (including the average for each subject interview - Philosophy, Politics and Economics).</li><li>12) The criteria used in evaluating the various admissions interviews for PPE and the TSA Essay section and also how the score for the interviews and TSA Essay section is obtained.</li></ol>

Dear Mr Fesser,

I write in reply to your email of 12 March requesting the above information.

The information you have requested is in the attached spreadsheet. Please note that, where the cohort of shortlisted applicants was very small, we have redacted the information to protect the privacy of individuals' personal data.

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 full information

requested would breach the first data protection principle, which requires that personal data is processed fairly and lawfully. Disclosure would be unfair to the individuals concerned, as it would be contrary to their reasonable and legitimate expectations. Providing the information in the requested format could allow others with access to additional information to infer new information about the performance of individual applicants at the shortlisting stage and about the success of individual applications. These applicants would not reasonably expect this information to be made public under the FOIA without their consent. Please note that a disclosure of information under FOIA is presumed to be a disclosure to the world at large, and not just a disclosure to the individual making the request.

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 has taken it into account.

## **INTERNAL REVIEW**

If you are dissatisfied with this reply, you may ask the University to review it, by writing to the Head of Information Compliance at the following address:

University Offices  
Wellington Square  
Oxford  
OX1 2JD

Alternatively, you may request a review by e-mailing [foi@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:foi@admin.ox.ac.uk)

## **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. The Information Commissioner's address is:

Information Commissioner  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123113

Further information for submitting complaints to the Information Commissioner is available at <http://www.ico.gov.uk/complaints.aspx>

Yours sincerely,

**FOI OXFORD**