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|  | |  | Ref. FOI/2017/October  10 November 2017 | |
| **Reply to request for information under Freedom of Information of Act** | | | |
| Your Ref | Emails dated 13th October 2017 | | |
| Address | [request-438411-f1651f8c@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-438411-f1651f8c@whatdotheyknow.com) | | |
| Request | 1) a list of TSA S1 scores of shortlisted candidates  2) a list of TSA S1 scores of offer holders  3) IB scores, with breakdown, of offer holders  4) IB scores, with breakdown, of international (non-EU) applicants to St. John's College  5) a list of conditional offers made to IB international applicants, with breakdown of the scores required for HL subjects  6) Can I please also request the following information regarding the interview criteria of chemistry(F100):  - any assessment tools and/or criteria that are used to select which applicants are chosen for interview  - criteria used when assessing interviewees for an offer  - the form used when assessing interviewees  **\*Clarification**: Sorry that I forgot to specify, can I please request the above admissions statistics for the past three years if applicable. | | |

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write in response to your emails of 13th October 2017 requesting the information above. To provide you with a comprehensive response, I have taken the liberty of itemising your request.

**Item 1 and 2**

Please note that TSA tests for Chemistry (F100) have only been piloted from 2017 onwards. Therefore the University only holds the data for 2017 UCAS cycle. This is provided in the *‘TSA Scores 2017*’ tab of the attached spreadsheet.

**Item 3**

The data for the 2015 to 2017 UCAS cycles is provided in the *‘IB Scores 2015-2017*’ tab of the attached spreadsheet.

**Item 4**

We are withholding the identification of applicants with the International Baccalaureate (IB) qualification applied to St John’s College and the corresponding IB score of these applicants. This is because we consider that this information might enable those with access to other relevant information or knowledge, to identify the individuals concerned and to obtain new information about those individuals’ qualifications. Please note that a disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) is presumed to be a disclosure to the world at large, and not just a disclosure to the individual making the request.

In withholding the IB scores of applicants to St John’s College, we are applying the exemption in section 40(2) of the 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 Schedule 1 of the Data Protection Act (DPA). 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. They would not reasonably expect that detailed information about their IB scores would be made public under the FOIA without their consent. The first data protection principle also requires that any disclosure must satisfy one of the conditions set out in Schedule 2 to the DPA. There are six conditions altogether: 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.

**Item 5**

A list of conditional offers made to applicants with the International Baccalaureate for UCAS Cycles 2015 to 2017 is provided in the ‘*Conditional Offers 2015-2017’* tab of the attached spreadsheet.

**Item 6**

Please see the enclosed documents titled *‘Admissions Criteria’* and *‘UCAS Form Grading 2017’* enclosed.

We have redacted some information from the *UCAS Form Grading 2017* document where the author provides specific details in relation to applicants from a given year. Since you are requesting the admissions and interview assessment criteria only, we have withheld this information as it does not fall within the scope of your request.

There is no departmental form that is used when assessing interviewees - each college may have their own way of assessing interviewees. If you wish to pursue your request you will need to approach the colleges direct. This is because colleges are separate legal entities from the University, and public authorities in their own right under the Freedom of Information Act. You can find a list of college websites in the top right hand corner of the front page of the University’s website: <http://www.ox.ac.uk/>. Each college website should contain an address to which you can send your request.

**INTERNAL REVIEW**

If you are dissatisfied with this reply, you may ask the University to review it, by writing to the Registrar 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 have 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

Nina Fionda

**FOI OXFORD**