



Ref. FOI/20200502/2

02 June 2020

Reply to request for information under the Freedom of Information Act	
Your ref	Email of 2 May 2020
Request	I was hoping to enquire as to the statistics of offers made in each subject for Merton College.

Dear Grace Dinsdale,

I write in reply to your email of Sunday 2 May, requesting the above information.

Please find the information requested, up to the 2018 UCAS cycle, on our website here: https://public.tableau.com/views/UniversityofOxford-CollegeSuccessRates2018/CollegeSuccessRates?:embed=y&:display_count=yes&:showTabs=y&:showVizHome=no

The website will be updated to include data for the 2019 UCAS cycle by the end of June, and therefore we are withholding the equivalent information for 2019 under section 22 of the FOIA. Section 22 provides that information is exempt from disclosure where there is an intention on the part of the public authority or another body to publish it at a future date, and where it is reasonable in all the circumstances to maintain the publication schedule.

The information requested will be published on the University website later in the year. In our view, this is not an excessive delay, and we would consider it to be reasonable therefore to withhold the information until its publication.

The exemption in section 22 is a qualified exemption that would require the University to weigh the public interest in disclosing the information requested, which is presumed from FOIA, against the public interest in maintaining the exemption.

We recognise that there is a public interest in the disclosure of information relating to undergraduate admissions. Immediate disclosure of the information would contribute to that interest. However, the question to be decided is whether the public interest will be better served by disclosing the information now, or later, in accordance with the publication schedule. Our view is that the public interest would be better served by adhering to the publication schedule. Disclosing the information prematurely, and in isolation from other information relating to the 2019 cycle that would be published at the same time, would undermine the purpose of the University's publication scheme. This scheme provides for the publication of a wide range of information relating to each admissions cycle, which presents a more complete and accurate picture than the piecemeal disclosure of separate items of admissions data.

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. 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](#).

If you choose to do this by post, the Information Commissioner's address is:

Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123113

Yours sincerely

Information Compliance Team