



Ref. FOI/20200513/1

11 June 2020

<b>Reply to request for information under the Freedom of Information Act</b>	
Your ref	Email of 13 May 2020
Request	<p>I would like to make a request of the following information for the cycle for 2019 entry to A100 medicine:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The number of direct applications to each college.</li><li>2. The average BMAT scores for each applicant to each college, and whether or not they received an offer, from their chosen college or allocated college.</li><li>3. The average number of A*s, As, Bs and Cs at GCSE for each college.</li><li>4. The A level subjects and grades for offer holders per college.</li></ol>

Dear N. Vajrala,

I write in reply to your email requesting the above information, which is attached.

**Item 1**

The University publishes this information on the website at the following webpage:

[https://public.tableau.com/views/UniversityofOxford-CollegeSuccessRates2018/CollegeSuccessRates?:embed=y&:display\\_count=yes&:showTabs=y&:showVizHome=no](https://public.tableau.com/views/UniversityofOxford-CollegeSuccessRates2018/CollegeSuccessRates?:embed=y&:display_count=yes&:showTabs=y&:showVizHome=no).

The website has data for the previous UCAS cycles. It will be updated to include data for the 2019 UCAS cycle, and therefore we are withholding the equivalent information for 2019 under section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act (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 this summer. 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.

### **Items 2 to 5**

Please find the information requested in the attached spreadsheet.

To reduce the risk of individuals being identified, we have presented the A level subjects and A level grades of successful applicants as aggregated data only.

In taking this measure, 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 about 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 attached information.

### **INTERNAL REVIEW**

If you are dissatisfied with this reply, you may ask the University to review it 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**