



Information Assurance and Governance  
Office of the Principal

13 November 2020

Dear Ciara,

**Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002**  
**Our Ref: 345-20**

I refer to your enquiry dated 16 October 2020 asking to be supplied with admission statistics under the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 ("the FOISA") for MA Modern History and Russian.

You have asked to be supplied with the following data for 2020/21, 2019/20 and 2018/19 admissions cycles:

- the number of applications,
- the number of offers made,
- the number of acceptances,
- the number of enrolments.

The information requested is presented in the table below.

**Table 1: Applications, offers, acceptances and entrants to MA Modern History and Russian, split by year (Full Time Equivalent)**

Year	Applications	Offers	Acceptances	Entrants
2018/9	2	1	0	0
2019/0	1	0	0	0
2020/1	5	<5	<5	<5
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>&lt;5</b>	<b>&lt;5</b>	<b>&lt;5</b>

Figures are presented in the table above where less than five registered students are being reported on. There is a risk that reporting at a more granular level could result in the individuals concerned being identified revealing information of a personal nature where there is no expectation of this happening and release would therefore be unfair. This would contravene data protection principle 1(a) in Article 5(1) of the General Data Protection Regulation i.e. that personal data shall be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner.

Information Assurance and Governance  
01334 462776  
foi@st-andrews.ac.uk

Disclosure of information under the FOISA is release of information into the public domain and by extension, members of the University community. It is through this route that identification is most likely to occur when the data is taken in conjunction with other data that could potentially come into the possession of another.

The exemption available at section 38(1)(b), *Personal Information* of the FOISA is being applied in this respect. This is an absolute exemption on not subject to the public interest test.

#### Your right to seek a review of how your information request was managed

If you are not satisfied with the University's response and/or our reasoning set-out above, you have the right to request a review of our decision. The timelines in which this right is available are set out in section 20(5)(a) and (b) FOISA. In broad terms the right to seek a review must be exercised within 40 working days of receiving this response.

The Information Assurance and Governance team are currently working remotely due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Any request for review at this time should be sent by email to [foi@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:foi@st-andrews.ac.uk) stating:

- a) your name and address;
- b) details of your original request; and
- c) the reasons why you are dissatisfied with our response.

If you remain dissatisfied with how your request for information has been dealt with following Review, you also have the right to apply to the Scottish Information Commissioner (SIC) for a decision. In the event of an appeal to the SIC, the Commissioner will generally only be able to investigate the matters raised in the request for review.

Details on how to make an appeal online to the SIC can be found on their website: <http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/YourRights/Unhappywiththeresponse/AppealingtoCommissioner.aspx>.

This concludes the University's response.

Yours sincerely

**JUNE WEIR**

Information Assurance and Governance Officer