

Eilidh Garrett
By email

Reference: FOI-2022-302

16 May 2022

Dear Eilidh Garrett,

Your request was received on 19 April 2022 and I am dealing with it under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act').

You asked:

I am requesting information for the following cycles for the 4 year Graduate Entry Medicine Programme.

- A) 2021/2022 cycle for Sep 2022 entry*
- B) 2020/2021 cycle for Sep 2021 entry*
- C) 2019/2020 cycle for Sep 2020 entry*

The information I would like is:

- 1) The lowest degree classification invited to interview.*
- 2) A list of the degree classifications/degree subject/BMAT scores/A level grades for each candidate that was given an offer. If the 2022 cycle data is not yet available, then please give the data of students that were invited to interview. Can this please be listed in such a way that the data is grouped to each candidate.*
- 3) How many offers were given for each cycle. How many interview invites were given for each cycle.*
- 4) Any information on selection.*

The requested data to answer Parts A and B, insofar as it is held, is attached. Information about interviews is not held; all interview processes for entry to undergraduate degree courses at the University are set and managed locally by each of the individual Colleges, each of which is a separate legal entity and public authority under the Act. The University has aggregated the data across the time period to prevent the risk of any individual being identified. In presenting the information in this way, the University is engaging the exemption at section 40(3A)(a) of the Act because the release of the raw data would breach the first data protection principle (the fair, lawful and transparent processing of

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personal data) as set out in the UK General Data Protection Regulation. This part of section 40 confers absolute exemption under the Act. Please note that the attached document should not be copied, reproduced or used except in accordance with the law of copyright.

The requested data to answer Part C, insofar as it is held (noting that the current undergraduate applications cycle is ongoing), is exempt under section 36(2)(c) of the Act because its disclosure would be likely to prejudice the effective conduct of public affairs, in this case the integrity of the University's applications and admissions process which form a fundamental part of its mission as an educational institution. (As the information requested is statistical in nature, the opinion of the qualified person did not need to be sought for this application of section 36.) The current undergraduate applications cycle is ongoing and applications are still being submitted and assessed. The University considers that the disclosure of detailed statistics about applications made within the current cycle would be likely to prejudice the notion of a fair and confidential admissions process whereby each applicant has the same information at their disposal and partial granular data is not disclosed to specific members of the public while the process is ongoing. As this is a qualified exemption, the University has considered whether, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. The University considers that, while some people might have an understandable private interest in these statistics, there is no genuine public interest in them when set against the extensive statistical information available about previous admissions cycles published at <https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/apply/statistics>, coupled with the prevailing public interest in maintaining a level playing field in terms of the information available to all applicants.

Information to answer Q4 is published at

<https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses/medicine-graduate-course>

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request an internal review of this decision, you should contact us quoting the reference number above. The University would normally expect to receive your request for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this letter and reserves the right not to review a decision where there has been undue delay in raising a complaint. If you are not content with the outcome of your review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the University. The Information Commissioner may be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF (<https://ico.org.uk/>).

Yours sincerely,

Zoe Allwood