



Information Assurance and Governance
Office of the Principal

9 December 2020

Dear Chandler,

Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002
Our Ref: 399-20

I refer to your enquiry dated 10 November 2020 asking to be supplied with admission statistics information under the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 ("the FOISA") for Undergraduate Biological Sciences for the 2018/19 cycle:

1. The average number of GCSE A and A* grades of successful and unsuccessful candidates, if applicable.

The University does not hold data for 2018/19 applicants who were unsuccessful.

In addition, information in relation to GCSEs or A-Levels for successful applicants is not held in a reportable and verifiable format. It is not possible to provide this data by simply locating and retrieving data from the records that we hold. The process involved requires data analysis, validation and a level of intellectual input resulting in the creation of new information which is out with the provisions of the FOISA.

2. The average number of A and A* predictions at A level of successful and unsuccessful candidates, if applicable.

The information requested is not held – please refer to the answer given at (1) above.

3. The overall percentage of candidates given offers.

Table 1: Percentages of applications to Undergraduate (UG) programmes in the School of Biology in 2018/19 receiving offers (% Full Time Equivalent)

% of applications receiving an offer
44%

4./

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4. The type of school of applicants and offer-holders (Independent, Grammar, Maintained)

The University does not hold information on the type of school of applicants who are not UK domiciled. Table 2 below, provides the data request for UK domiciled applications and offers.

Table 2: UK domiciled applications and offers to UG programmes in the School of Biology in 2018/19, split by secondary school type (FTE)

School type	Applications	Conditional offers	Unconditional offers	Total offers
State school	415	100	106	205
Grammar School	25	19		19
Independent School	151	69	19	88
Not known/Not applicable	43	2	5	7
Total	634	190	129	319

5. The proportion of home/international students

6. Indication of the different types of offers (conditional or unconditional)

Table 3: Applications and offers to UG programmes in the School of Biology in 2018/19, split by fee status (FTE)

Fee status	Applications	Conditional offers	Unconditional offers	Total offers
Scotland	293	8	116	123
EU	342	61		61
RUK	285	170	12	182
Overseas	335	117	72	189
Total	1255	356	199	555

Information not held

Section 17 of the FOISA requires that a Scottish public authority confirms in writing where information requested of it is not held. For the reasons given at part (1), (2) and (4), some of the information requested is not held and notice is given in this regard.

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 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

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