



Ref. FOI/20210125/7

22 February 2021

Reply to request for information under the Freedom of Information Act	
Your ref	Email of 25 January 2021
Request	<p>For all undergrad courses, please release the average scores achieved by all applicants, all shortlisted applicants, and all offer holders, split by both degree title and domicile. These for the past 3 cycles.</p> <p>So, output should be an excel tab for each year, with rows being all degree titles, and columns being UK (apply/shortlist/offer average scores) and non UK (apply/offer shortlist)</p>

Dear Mr Elliott

I write in reply to your email of 25 January 2021, requesting the above information.

Please find the data requested on the attached spreadsheet.

You will note that some of the data has been redacted from the spreadsheet. This is because providing average scores for a small number of candidates might enable those with access to other information or knowledge to identify individuals and learn new information about them. To reduce the risk of breaching data protection principles, we have therefore removed any average score that represents less than three individuals.

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 relating to their admission test scores 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 information provided.

INTERNAL REVIEW

You may request an internal review of this response 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.

Yours sincerely

Information Compliance Team