

Information Assurance and Governance
Office of the Principal

22 February, 2018

Dear Mr Groves,

Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002
Our Ref: 25-18

I refer to your request received by the University dated 26 January, 2018 under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 ("the FOISA") seeking the following information:

- *The average grades achieved in each and every level 2000, level 3000 and level 4000 module of Physics, Astrophysics and Mathematics only for the December 2017 exam diet.*

I confirm the University holds the information requested and that this is being partially released to you.

The average grades requested can be found in Appendix A to this letter.

A student's academic performance is a private matter. The number of students enrolled on a few specific modules was so small that it was found that to provide the average mark would breach the first data protection principle i.e. that information be processed fairly and lawfully. This information is therefore being with-held under section 38(1)(b) and 38(2)(a)(i), *Personal Information* of the FOISA.

The University believes that there is a risk of a living individual being identified from the with-held data in conjunction with other data that could potentially come into the possession of another. As a result, it would be unfair for information revealing a student's marks in a particular module to be released into the public domain where that person has no reasonable expectation that this information will be disclosed. This is an absolute exemption and 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 time lines 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.

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

Any request for review should be put in writing or some other permanent form e.g. an e-mail and should be sent to the University of St Andrews, through the contact details provided below.

A request for a Review should:

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

Freedom of Information / Environmental Information
University of St Andrews
Butts Wynd (Building)
St Andrews
Fife
KY16 9AJ

Email foi@st-andrews.ac.uk
Telephone +44(0)1334 462776

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>

Alternatively, you can contact the SIC by post, telephone or email at:

Scottish Information Commissioner
Kinburn Castle
Doubledykes Road
St Andrews
Fife KY16 9DS

Telephone: 01334 464610
E-mail: enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info
Website: www.itspublicknowledge.info

This concludes the University's response.

Yours sincerely

JUNE WEIR
Information Assurance and Governance Officer

Enc.