

Mr John Gilchrist
Freedom of Information Officer

4 September 2019

Ref: FOI/August 2019/ Dominic Razenstein

By email to request-595377-25253e51@whatdotheyknow.com

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Dear Mr Razenstein

Your request for information received on 7 August 2019 has been dealt with under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

You asked:

This request relates to students who enrolled in your LLB Law course (course code: M100) in September or October 2017 and September or October 2018. I refer to these as the "relevant students".

I request the following data:

1. A complete, anonymised list of all GCSE and IGCSE grades achieved by the relevant students who enrolled in each year; 2. A complete, anonymised list of all A-level grades achieved by the relevant students who enrolled in each year; 3. A complete, anonymised list of all IB grades achieved by the relevant students who enrolled in each year.

Notes:

A. Please provide the data for 2017 and 2018 separately.

B. Please do not include data from other law-related courses (such as Law with a Language, Joint Honours Law, or Law with a Year Abroad) if these courses are offered by the university.

C. Please express your response in such a way that each row or bullet point represents a separate, anonymous student.

D. Please provide the data under the following sub-headings, in the following order:

List of (I)GCSE grades for 2017

List of (I)GCSE grades for 2018

List of IB Scores for 2017

List of IB Scores for 2018

List of A-level grades for 2017

List of A-level grades for 2018

University Response

The information requested on costs is regarded as competitive data and is not available to our competitors.

Section 44 (1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 permits the University to withhold information if its disclosure would be prohibited by law. Due to competition law, under the Competition Act 1998, the University must exercise caution in releasing any information of a strategic nature such that it may constitute an exchange that would infringe competition law by placing it in the public domain where it could potentially be access by other Higher Education Institutions.

Competition law is seen to be infringed if parties do not actually agree on an anticompetitive act but exchange information that would lead competitors to understand how and what benchmarks have been set.

This would include the release of strategic, or strategically useful, information. It is therefore necessary to withhold such information that is not already in the public domain and would include specific information about the University's admissions operations. Such information has therefore been withheld because the University believes that its release would breach the Competition Act 1998.

By disclosing the information it would be placed in the public domain where it would be readily accessible to other institutions in the Higher Education sector; thus it could adversely affect the free competition between institutions.

This is an absolute exemption and the University is not required to consider the public interest in the release of this data.

I trust this satisfies your request sufficiently. Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, you have the right to complain about the University's response to your request for information. If you have such a complaint, you may contact Mr David Maplas, Director of Student Affairs, Middlesex University, Hendon campus, London NW4 4BT, tel: 020 8411 5830, d.malpas@mdx.ac.uk within 40 days of the date of this letter for a review of the University's decision. If you remain unsatisfied with the outcome of that complaint, you may seek further recourse by lodging an appeal with the Information Commissioner.

Yours sincerely

John Gilchrist
Freedom of Information Officer