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Directorate

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Mr Choudhary

By Email: request-137285-836ee5d2@whatdotheyknow.com

Thursday, 06 December 2012

Dear Mr Choudhary

Freedom of Information Act 2000 request – Dentistry Admission Statistics

In response to your request for Dentistry admission statistics, dated 07 November 2012, made under section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the Act"), I am writing to confirm that the information you requested exists and some of it is included with this letter. The College believes that some of the information that you have requested is exempt and where this is the case we have provided an explanation.

You asked the following:

I have a request regarding information on the universities dentistry school. All questions are for last year's UCAS cycle.

- 1. How many of the students admitted were studying A Levels?*
- 2. How many of the students admitted were international?*
- 3. How many graduate students applied for the 5 year course?*
- 4. How many graduate students applied for the graduate course?*

Please refer to the attached PDF document named Summary – Dentistry Admissions for the answers to questions one to four above.

5. How many of each category of students that I have mentioned above were:

- i) Rejected pre interview*
- ii) Rejected post interview*
- iii) Given an offer*

By each category, I am referring to the categories 'A Level students', 'international students', 'graduates applying to the 5 year course' and 'graduates applying for the graduate 4 year course'.

6. For each applicant, can I get their UKCAT score, their GCSE results, degree result or prediction, A Level results or prediction, pre interview score and interview score? If it is not possible to give all the data within the time limit of 18 hours or £450, I would ask the university give me a sample of randomized data which can omit a proportion of candidates and their data such that the time and cost constraints are met. If this is the case, I would also like to request the range of UKCAT scores for applicants in the categories mentioned in questions 1-4.

The College has not provided the information relating to questions five and six on the basis that the cost of doing so would exceed the 'appropriate limit' set by the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 ('the Regulations'). The Regulations specify that a public authority does not have to comply with a request for information where the cost of complying with the request would exceed the 'appropriate limit', which is set for universities at £450 or the equivalent of 18 hours of staff time. The College's policy is not to provide information where the cost of doing so would exceed the 'appropriate limit'.

Extracting the information you have requested for these two questions would require the analysis of various datasets held externally on systems, including files in archive, where querying it will involve individually examining records and this would significantly add to the time involved. As there are well over 1000 cases every year, extracting this information for any particular given time on a random basis would be well over the 'appropriate limit' even with a very conservative estimate of fifteen minutes per file. It is unclear to us how these two questions could be narrowed down so that they would fall within the appropriate limit, although we would welcome any suggestions which you may have in this regard.

7. I would also request for a copy of the interview form that Kings College uses to assess a candidate during the interview for the Dentistry course. This request is applicable for this year's entry cycle and I would like the forms for interview for both the undergraduate and post graduate interviews.

The information which you have requested is regarded by the College as being commercially sensitive under section 43(2) (Commercial Interests) of the Act and is therefore exempted.

The interview form (the same for both four and five year courses) contains exam questions that are uniquely designed and mastered by The College, therefore we are unable to release this information to the public as it relates to information whose disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of the College. This exemption is subject to a public interest test which requires us to determine that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in releasing it.

The requested interview form is a component of the College's institutional conduct, and informs the decisions made by the College's Admission and Interview Panels. We believe that the publication of this information would be likely to benefit the College's competitors by revealing the extent of the College's academic research, teaching, support and other activity in particular areas, allowing competitors to adjust their strategies to gain an advantage (e.g. by using similar methods/techniques of assessment or ways of conducting interviews/effective questioning and the examples/scenarios used).

As indicated, the release of this information would be likely to undermine the College's position relative to its competitors; in the current economic environment in regard to offers of places to prospective students, we believe that there is a public interest in universities being able to compete effectively to attract the best students. The College publishes extensive information about its selection processes to various courses on offer, which we believe satisfies the requirements of accountability

However the College can confirm that it assesses the answer to both the question itself and the general communication skills expressed at the interview. Each part is marked out of ten points.

8. I would also like to know what the selection process is when determining a candidate's suitability for both the four year course and the five year course. If any form is used to assess this, I would also like a copy of this.

Please refer to the attached PDF document named Dental Selection Procedure Nov 2012 for the selection process information you have requested. Please note that the UKCAT cut off score is higher for the four year course than the five year course due to the increased competition for places.

This completes your request for information.

If you feel your request has not been properly handled or you are otherwise dissatisfied with the outcome of your request, you have the right to complain. Details of how to make a complaint can be found in our FoI Policy, a copy of which is available on our web site at:

<http://www.kcl.ac.uk/college/policyzone/index.php?id=209>.

Further information is also available from the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Tel: 01625 545 700

www.ico.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dunstan Thomas', written in a cursive style.

Dunstan Thomas
Legal Compliance Officer