



Isaac Ong  
By email

Reference: FOI-2021-445 (Review)

23 June 2021

Dear Mr Ong,

Thank you for your email of 11 June 2021 requesting a review of the response of the same date supplied to you in respect of your request for information dated 19 May 2021. I now reply as the officer responsible for the internal review of the handling of such requests. The purpose of the internal review procedure is to ensure that the University has complied with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act').

In your email of 11 June 2021 you stated:

*Please pass this on to the person who conducts Freedom of Information reviews.  
I am writing to request an internal review of University of Cambridge's handling of my FOI request 'Humanities Subjects Admissions Statistics'.  
In the University's response to my request, the admissions data from 3 application cycles were aggregated in order to prevent the identification of individuals, with the statistics on acceptances being omitted. However, I believe that it is reasonable for the data from individual application cycles to be presented separately, as long as numbers smaller than 3 but bigger than 0 are replaced with a generic "<3". This way, data on the number of acceptances per course can be provided too. From what I gather, using "<3" to maintain anonymity is standard practice, as seen in the University's response to a previous WhatDoTheyKnow request of mine ([https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/history\\_and\\_english\\_application#incoming-1754473](https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/history_and_english_application#incoming-1754473)). Therefore, I hope that the University will be able to present the requested admissions statistics for Singaporean applicants by UCAS apply year (with the necessary measures to prevent identification of individuals), rather than amalgamating them.*

I have considered all the circumstances of the case. While the dataset that the FOI Manager disclosed was an appropriate application of the exemption at section 40(2), I concur with you that a more helpful but still lawful presentation of the data would have been to replicate the approach taken with your earlier request under the Act, our ref. FOI-2021-195 (in short, suppression rather than aggregation). I accordingly attach a dataset in that format. Please note that the attached document should not be copied, reproduced or used except in accordance with the law of copyright.

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If you remain dissatisfied with the University's handling of this request or with the outcome of this review, you may raise the matter by way of appeal to the Information Commissioner who may be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF (<https://ico.org.uk/>).

Yours sincerely,

James Knapton