

## IT Services

18 April, 2017

Dear Minesh,

### Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002

Our Ref: 87-17

I refer to your request received by the University on 20 March, 2017 under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 ("the FOISA") asking to be provided with the following information:

- *A list of the graduates of International Relations from 2013-16.*

I confirm the University holds the information requested however, this is not being supplied to you as part of this response for the reasons outlined below.

#### Information otherwise accessible

All graduating students are asked if they would like their name published in the press. Where consent is given, the University publishes this information along with details of the degree award in the Herald, Scotsman, Courier and St Andrews Citizen.

As the information provided in response to this part of your enquiry is already publically available, section 25(1), *Information otherwise accessible* of the FOISA is applicable. The University has responsibilities to the taxpayer and other stakeholders to provide value for money. Where the University has expended resource to proactively make information available and the public interest is best served by referring an applicant to that alternative source, then it will do so. Please note that this exemption is absolute and does not require validation through application of the public interest test.

#### Personal Information

A student's academic performance is a private matter. A number of graduates of International Relations in each of the specified years refused permission for their details to be published in the press. To go against those wishes and disclose their personal data into the public domain as part of this response where there is no reasonable expectation of this happening would be a clear breach of 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), *Personal Information* of the FOISA. 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)

IT Services  
01334 462776  
foi@st-andrews.ac.uk

and (b) FOISA. In broad terms the right to seek a review must be exercised no later than 40 working days following receipt of this response.

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](mailto: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.

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](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info)  
Website: [www.itspublicknowledge.info](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info)

This concludes the University's response.

Yours sincerely

**JUNE WEIR**  
Freedom of Information Officer