

Monday, 16 September 2019

George Mounokoliavitz
request-591009-71b22fd5@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Mr Mounokoliavitz

Reference: Freedom of Information Internal Review: FOI 19/181

Thank you for your e-mail dated 19th August 2019 in which you requested that I carry out an internal review of the University's decision to provide certain information to you in relation to your freedom of information request dated 19th July 2019 (under reference FOI 19-150).

The Decision:

The response from LJMU is dated 19 August 2019. I note that this response provided the following information:

- The total number of candidates who applied for a law-related course in UCAS Clearing 2018:
"106. This is the number of students who were made an offer through clearing."
- The number of candidates whose applications through Clearing were accepted:
"102. This is the number of students who accepted an offer made through clearing and enrolled."

Further information was requested through FOI 19-150, specifically the number of candidates who achieved specific grade combinations, e.g. AAA, AAB, ABB etc. There were ten such combinations in total.

The University withheld this information citing Section 43 of the FOIA:

"The University withholds this information under Section 43 of the FOIA as it is likely to be prejudicial to its ability to participate competitively in a commercial market."

Outcome of my review:

I have now conducted a review of the University's decision and it is my view that the decision not to disclose the full information on 19th August 2019 was compliant with the requirements of the FOIA. At that time, and due to the ongoing Confirmation and Clearing 2019 period, a likelihood of prejudice to our commercial interests did exist.

However, the Confirmation and Clearing 2019 period has concluded, and it is now my view that the likelihood of prejudice to our commercial interests has reduced, and the arguments for the exemption can no longer be sustained.

Therefore, please find the information you requested at **Annex 1** below.

If you have any queries concerning my decision then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Next Steps:

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Commissioner can be contacted at:

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

or www.ico.org.uk

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely



Peter Byers

Annex 1 – Additional Material to be Disclosed.

Your Request	LJMU Response
<i>Please provide the following admissions data in relation to the law-related courses that were offered by your university in UCAS Clearing 2018 (i.e. any courses with course code M1xx):</i>	
<i>The total number of candidates who applied for one of these courses through Clearing;</i>	106. This is the number of students who were made an offer through clearing.
<i>The number of candidates whose applications through Clearing were accepted</i>	102. This is the number of students who accepted an offer made through clearing and enrolled.
The number of candidates who achieved AAA or above at A-level	None
The number of candidates who achieved AAB	<5
The number of candidates who achieved ABB	None
The number of candidates who achieved BBB	<5
The number of candidates who achieved BBC	14
The number of candidates who achieved BCC	14
The number of candidates who achieved CCC	7
The number of candidates who achieved CCD	5
The number of candidates who achieved CDD	7
The number of candidates who achieved DDD or Below	5
In addition to the your questions above, for clarity LJMU would like to confirm the following:	
The number of candidates who achieved other A level grade combination not stated above	38
The number of candidates who held other Qualification held in lieu of A Levels	8
The number of candidates who were accepted but did not enrol	<5

Please be aware that the above grades represent students accepted on to the following courses in 2018:

- **M100** LLB Law,
- **MM12** LLB Law and Criminal Justice
- **M101** LLB Law with Foundation Year



Liverpool John Moores University uses the UCAS Tariff system to appraise applicants, but will also take relevant work and life experiences into account.

You will notice that in places we have stated that <5 (less than 5) students fell into a specific category. This is to avoid any individual being identified due to the small size of these groups. Section 40(2) of the FOIA requires us to protect Personal Data in line with the principles of the GDPR when making disclosures to the public.