



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

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L. Sommaruga

Sent by email: [request-760218-
edf63314@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-760218-edf63314@whatdotheyknow.com)

Dear L. Sommaruga

Freedom of Information request: FOI2021/00304

Thank you for your email of 28 May requesting information about MSc Economics exam papers in the academic years 2017/18 and 2018/19. Please accept our apologies for the significant delay to our response to your request. The University's working practices are currently affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The University of Edinburgh is a global university, rooted in Scotland. We are globally recognised for our research, development and innovation and we have provided world-class teaching to our students for more than 430 years. We are the largest university in Scotland and in 2019/20 our annual revenue was £1.12 billion, of which £296 million was research income. We have over 44,000 students and over 15,000 staff. We are a founding member of the UK's Russell Group of leading research universities and a member of the League of European Research Universities.

The School of Economics offers an undergraduate degree which provides a solid basis for further study or a career in economics. The programme is flexible, with a wide range of courses due to the School's expansive list of specialities. The School also offers three taught Scottish Graduate Programme in Economics (SGPE) masters programmes, MSc in Economics, MSc in Economics (Econometrics) and MSc in Economics (Finance). All three provide a solid grounding in the latest research methods needed for PhD study. More information on the [School of Economics](#) can be found on the University's website.

Exam papers

You asked for exam papers for the MSc in Economics programme for the academic years 2017/18 and 2018/19. You asked specifically for the following exam papers for these years:

ECNM11024 Macroeconomics 1

ECNM11022 Macroeconomics 2

ECNM11023 Microeconomics 1

ECNM11025 Microeconomics 2

ECNM11043 Econometrics 1

The University holds all the above exam papers for these years.

The University makes past exam papers available to students for exam preparation through [Exam Papers Online](#). However, disclosing these outwith the University would be likely to significantly harm the University's assessment process and its commercial interests. The University is currently piloting, and intends to deliver at scale, distance-learning programmes which are likely to draw on course material and exam papers from our current programmes. Making these papers public would undermine the assessment process for these programmes, and undermine the University's ability to use its information assets to develop new commercial services. The University is also aware that extracts of exam papers and assessments can be used by contract cheating services. The Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 does not require us to provide this sort of information as it is exempt under sections 30(c) and 33(1)(b). These exemptions are subject to the public interest test. There is clear public interest in the transparent operation of public authorities, particularly with regard to the examination of students, and this is why we publish our [Assessment Regulations](#), [Marking Scheme](#) and [Degree Regulations](#). However, there is also significant public interest in the University being able to teach and assess students fairly and without prejudice, and in allowing the University to engage in legitimate commercial ventures in order to broaden the provision of its services. In this case, the University considers that the public interest in withholding this information outweighs the public interest in releasing it.

Right to review

If you are dissatisfied with this response, you may ask the University to conduct a review of this decision by contacting the University's Records Management Section in writing (e.g. by letter or email) or in some other recorded form (e.g. audio or video tape). You should describe the original request, explain your grounds for dissatisfaction, and include an address for correspondence. You have 40 working days from receipt of this letter to submit a review request. The contact details for the Records Management Section are at the top of this letter. When the review process has been completed, if you are still dissatisfied, you may use the [Scottish Information Commissioner's guidance on making an appeal](#) to make an appeal to the Commissioner. If you do not have access to the Internet, please let me know and I will provide a copy of the relevant web pages.

Privacy notice for information request applicants

[The University of Edinburgh's request privacy notice](#), which describes how we use the information you have supplied about yourself and your request, is published on the University website.

Yours sincerely

Mark Hepworth

Records Management Section

If you require this letter in an alternative format, such as large print or a coloured background, please contact the Records Management Section on 0131 651 4099 or email recordsmanagement@ed.ac.uk