

Matthew Schaefer  
By email

Reference: FOI-2021-347

6 May 2021

Dear Mr Schaefer,

Your request was received on 13 April 2021 and I am dealing with it under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act').

You asked:

*I would like to find out:*

- 1) What percentage of offer holders for 2021 in Computer Science did not take further maths at A-Level*
- 2) What percentage of offer holders for 2021 in Computer Science did not take computer science at A-Level*

The information requested, insofar as it is held (noting that the current undergraduate applications cycle is ongoing), is exempt under section 36(2)(c) of the Act because its disclosure would be likely to prejudice the effective conduct of public affairs, in this case the integrity of the University's applications and admissions process which form a fundamental part of its mission as an educational institution. (As the information requested is statistical in nature, the opinion of the qualified person did not need to be sought for this application of section 36.) The current undergraduate applications cycle is ongoing and applications are still being submitted and assessed. The University considers that the disclosure of detailed statistics about applications made within the current cycle would be likely to prejudice the notion of a fair and confidential admissions process whereby each applicant has the same information at their disposal and partial granular data is not disclosed to specific members of the public while the process is ongoing. As this is a qualified exemption, the University has considered whether, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. The University considers that, while some people might have an understandable private interest in these statistics, there is no genuine public interest in them when set against the extensive statistical information available about previous admissions cycles published at

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<https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/apply/statistics>, coupled with the prevailing public interest in maintaining a level playing field in terms of the information available to all applicants.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request an internal review of this decision, you should contact us quoting the reference number above. The University would normally expect to receive your request for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this letter and reserves the right not to review a decision where there has been undue delay in raising a complaint. If you are not content with the outcome of your review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the University. The Information Commissioner may be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF (<https://ico.org.uk/>).

Yours sincerely,

Zoe Allwood