

Ref. FOI/20210114/1

11 February 2021

Reply to request for information under the Freedom of Information Act	
Your ref	Email of 14 January 2021
Request	<p>I would like to know the following information about the admissions for Undergraduate PPE admissions for 2021:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Total applicants for the course2. Total places offered3. How many places offered at each college4. Mean and Standard Deviation of all TSA scores5. Mean and Standard Deviation of TSA scores of those offered a place6. Proportion of international students offered a place7. Gender balance of those offered a place

Dear Mr Green,

I write in reply to your email requesting the above information.

Items 1-2 and 6-7

Figures for the number of applicants applying to Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE), and the number who received an offer, can be found on the University's website here:

https://public.tableau.com/views/UniversityofOxford-AdmissionsStatistics2019ByCourse/AdmissionsStatistics-Counts?%3Aembed=y&%3Adisplay_count=yes&%3AshowTabs=y&%3AshowVizHome=no

- To find information about PPE, read the row labelled 'Philosophy, Politics and Economics', along with the columns labelled 'Applications', and 'Offers'.
- To find information for a specific year, or range of years, choose from the options on the drop down labelled 'Select UCAS Cycle(s)'.
- To find information about non-UK domiciled applications, select 'Domicile' from the drop down labelled 'Select Demographic (Columns)'.
- To find a breakdown by gender, select 'Gender' from the drop down labelled 'Select Demographic (Columns)'.

The website has data for the 2019 UCAS cycle. Data for the 2020 cycle will be added in late May/early June, and data for the 2021 cycle at about the same time in 2022. We are therefore withholding the information for 2021 under section 22 of the FOIA. Section 22 provides that information is exempt from disclosure where there is an intention on the part of the public authority or another body to publish it at a future date, and where it is reasonable in all the circumstances to maintain the publication schedule.

The information requested will be published on the University website in mid 2022. In our view, this is not an excessive delay, and we would consider it to be reasonable therefore to withhold the information until its publication.

The exemption in section 22 is a qualified exemption that would require the University to weigh the public interest in disclosing the information requested, which is presumed from FOIA, against the public interest in maintaining the exemption.

We recognise that there is a public interest in the disclosure of information relating to undergraduate admissions. Immediate disclosure of the information would contribute to that interest. However, the question to be decided is whether the public interest will be better served by disclosing the information now, or later, in accordance with the publication schedule. Our view is that the public interest would be better served by adhering to the publication schedule. Disclosing the information prematurely, and in isolation from other information relating to the 2021 cycle that would be published at the same time, would undermine the purpose of the University's publication scheme. This scheme provides for the publication of a wide range of information relating to each admissions cycle, which presents a more complete and accurate picture than the piecemeal disclosure of separate items of admissions data.

Item 3

The University publishes this information on the website. As explained above, it will be updated to include data for the 2021 UCAS cycle next year. You can find information for the 2019 UCAS Cycle at the following link: https://public.tableau.com/views/UniversityofOxford-CollegeSuccessRates2019/CollegeSuccessRates?:embed=y&:display_count=yes&:showTabs=y&:showVizHome=no

Items 4 and 5

Please find the information requested in the attached spreadsheet.

INTERNAL REVIEW

If you are dissatisfied with this reply, you may ask the University to review it by e-mailing foi@admin.ox.ac.uk. A request for internal review should be submitted no later than 40 working days from the date of this letter.

THE INFORMATION COMMISSIONER

If, after the internal review, you are still dissatisfied, you have the right under FOIA to apply to the Information Commissioner for a decision as to whether your request has been dealt with in accordance with the FOIA. You can do this online using the [Information Commissioner's complaints portal](#).

Yours sincerely

Information Compliance Team