



Ref: 202406/504/505/506

03 July 2024

<b>Reply to request for information under the Freedom of Information Act</b>	
Your ref	Email of 6 June 2024
Request	<p>I am writing to sincerely ask if you can provide a breakdown of the admissions statistics of Engineering Science(H100), Physics and Material Science at Oxford University by each college:</p> <p>1. 2022-2024 Undergraduate - Home&amp;International&amp;China student admissions data and breakdown by college and by course. Please make the data breakdown by course in different sheets, with the data of one course in a single sheet, if possible.</p> <p>Including :</p> <p>Applicants' information about</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) UCAS Cycle</li><li>2) The College Applied to</li><li>3) Shortlisted or not</li><li>4) Shortlisted by which colleges</li><li>5) Offer or rejection</li><li>6) Offered by which colleges</li><li>7) Admission test scores of each applicant</li><li>8) Predicted A-level/IB/AP grades</li><li>9) Interview scores of each applicants</li></ol> <p>College-related information about:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Number of Applicants, shortlisted, and Offers of each college</li><li>2) Enrollment of each college</li></ol>

Dear Winter

I write in reply to your email requesting the information detailed above, please note that this is a joint response to three requests made but for separate subjects.

The information requested for 2023/2024, through aggregation will allow access to data points, specifically total applicant and offer numbers for the specified course, that are to be included in the annual statistics on undergraduate admissions published in May 2025 as part of the University's Publication Scheme.

We are therefore refusing your request 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 exemption in section 22 is a qualified exemption that requires 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 general public interest in the disclosure of information relating to the University's admissions process. 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 in isolation from other information relating to the 2024 admissions cycle 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.

The information requested will be published on this page [Admissions statistics | University of Oxford](#)

Your request is for detailed individual level data. We consider that disclosure of this information in the exact form requested might enable those with access to other information or knowledge to identify individuals and learn new information about those individuals e.g. those on the same course or at the same college. For this reason, we have taken a number of measures to reduce the risk of identification, including redaction of data, removing data of 3 or less students, including 0 and replacing with <3.

In taking these measures, we are applying the exemption in section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Section 40(2) provides an exemption from disclosure for information that is the personal data of an individual other than the requester, where disclosure would breach any of the data protection principles in Article 5 of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). We consider that disclosure of the information requested in the exact form requested would breach the first data protection principle, which requires that personal data is processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner. Disclosure would be unfair to the individuals concerned, as it would be contrary to their reasonable and legitimate expectations. They would not reasonably expect that information relating to their application to Oxford would be made public under the FOIA without their consent.

For the disclosure of personal data to be lawful, it must have a lawful basis under Article 6 of the GDPR. There are six possible lawful bases in Article 6; we do not consider that any of them would be satisfied in respect of the disclosure.

The exemption in section 40(2) is an absolute exemption and is not subject to the public interest test provided for in section 2(2)(b) of the FOIA. To the extent that the public interest is relevant in this case, the University considers it is satisfied by the information provided.

## **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](mailto: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



**FOI Oxford  
Information Compliance Team**