

Our Reference: FOI.2019.07.317

**UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM**

Legal Services

**Director
Mrs C M E Pike LLB
Solicitor**

John Dimitroulopoulos
What do they know

(By Email)

20 August 2019

Dear Mr Dimitroulopoulos

Re: request for information under The Freedom of Information Act.

Further to your request for information dated 18 July 2019, please find attached the University of Birmingham's response. If you have any queries with regard to this letter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Please note our statement in respect of Copyright, which is also attached.

If you are dissatisfied with the manner in which your request has been dealt with, you may ask for an internal review. The University's Complaints and Appeals procedure is available at
<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/university/governance/policies-regs/information/index.aspx>

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Team
University of Birmingham

Encs

Your request for information reads:

*“Please provide the following data in relation to all of your undergraduate law courses (i.e. any course with course code M1**) for the following admissions cycles:*

2015/16
2016/17
2017/18
2018/19

- 1. Whether the university currently operates a ‘contextual offers’ policy where law applicants from disadvantaged backgrounds are, subject to meeting certain criteria, eligible to be made a lower grade offer than applicants who do not meet such criteria;*
- 2. If such a policy is in place, the A-level or IB grades that typically make up this lower ‘contextual offer’ (for example, AAA instead of A*AA);*
- 3. The number of ‘contextual offers’ made to applicants to all law-related courses throughout these four admissions cycles (for example, 4 in 2015/16, 2 in 2016/17, etc).”*

The University of Birmingham responds:

The University of Birmingham is required to respond to a request made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“the Act”) if it holds the information being requested, unless it is appropriate to apply one of the limited exemptions set out in the Act.

The information below relates to any course with a code M1***.

- 1. Whether the university currently operates a ‘contextual offers’ policy where law applicants from disadvantaged backgrounds are, subject to meeting certain criteria, eligible to be made a lower grade offer than applicants who do not meet such criteria;**

Yes, we do have lower offers and contextual offers for applicants meeting certain criteria.

Details about the University of Birmingham A2B Scheme can be found on the University website at:

<https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/teachers/pupil-opportunities/post-16/Access-to-Birmingham.aspx> and
<https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/undergraduate/requirements/contextual-offer.aspx>.

Please see Refusal Notice 1 below which explains why you are being referred to the University’s website.

2. If such a policy is in place, the A-level or IB grades that typically make up this lower 'contextual offer' (for example, AAA instead of A*AA);

ABB rather than AAA for those within the A2B Scheme (covers all four years of interest) and AAB rather than AAA for those meeting other contextual criteria (since the start of the 2017/18 application round). Links to the A2B Scheme have been provided in response to question 1.

3. The number of 'contextual offers' made to applicants to all law-related courses throughout these four admissions cycles (for example, 4 in 2015/16, 2 in 2016/17, etc).

The University does not normally provide data for the current cycle, as the admissions process has not concluded. For 'contextual offers' we are including A2B and other reduced grade offers based on summer schools, reciprocal arrangements etc.

2015/16: 235

2016/17: 426

2017/18: 457

Refusal Notice 1

Reasons for non-disclosure

Section 21 – Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Information reasonably accessible by other means

The information you have requested is available to the public on the University's website. Therefore, under Section 21 of the Act, the University has not provided this information. More information about this exemption is available on the Information Commissioner's Office's website. <https://ico.org.uk/>.

The University of Birmingham

This documentation has been produced in response to a request made under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The copyright in this documentation will be held by the University of Birmingham, a wholly owned subsidiary company of the University, or a third party associated with the University. In the absence of a notice to the contrary, it should be assumed that the copyright is held by the University of Birmingham.

Except as otherwise permitted under the Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988, and subsequent related legislation, this documentation may only be reproduced, stored or transmitted in any form or means, with the prior permission of the University of Birmingham (or other rights holders).

Enquiries concerning reproduction outside the terms of the legislation should be made to:

Legal Services, The University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT

© The University of Birmingham 2019