



29 June 2020

K Roe  
By email to [fji.org.nz](mailto:fji.org.nz)

Dear Ms Roe

I write in response to your correspondence following from my 4 June reply to your Official Information Act request of 6 May 2020.

It is somewhat difficult to ascertain whether you intend to request further information or instead seek to dispute University processes. I understand your interpretation of the Education Act to be incorrect: the Act in no ways requires that those aged over 20 be given preference over younger students in selection for limited places. I also record that comments in your June 9 email are inappropriate and I regret that you chose to make them; we would expect to refuse any future requests from you that include similarly vexatious comments.

You have asked "how many students who have not attained the age of 20 years are offered a place in MB ChB, when they are also not members of a TAS?" I have taken this to be a question about those who sought admission outside of one of the Mirror on Society sub-categories (for 2020, these comprised the following sub-categories: Māori; New Zealand Resident Indigenous Pacific Origins; New Zealand Rural Origins; Socioeconomic Equity; Refugee). On that basis, I can report that 86 domestic applicants, who had not obtained the age of 20 at the time when they submitted their application and had not applied via a Mirror on Society sub-category, were offered places in 2020.

I reiterate that age is not a factor in selection processes for the MB ChB at the University of Otago.

Yours sincerely

Chris Stoddart  
Registrar  
University of Otago