



13 February 2023

By email: fyi-request-21475-a3571715@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Alex

I refer to your information request dated 21 December 2022 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You have requested mark and grade distributions for various papers offered by the University of Otago from 2018 – 2022.

We note we contacted you 12 January 2023 to see whether you would be willing to limit the scope of your request. At the time, we noted that your request was very large and therefore we would have been likely to need to propose a charge or decline part of the request pursuant to section 18(f) of the Act. Given that your request covered a large number of papers from several different subject areas, and was for a large time period, our staff would have needed to dedicate a large amount of time to respond to your request, which would unreasonably interfere with our operations.

Your reply of 12 January 2023 confirmed that you were willing to limit the scope of your request to the same number of papers, but for the time period 2021 – 2022. Thank you for agreeing to limit the scope of your request.

Subject to the following comments, please see attached the information you have requested. Please note that there are two separate pages in the attached document (one for each year).

- on occasions where fewer than five students have failed a paper (i.e. received a grade of Fail D, Fail E or Failed Terms (Zoology papers only)), we have determined that it is necessary to withhold the marks and specific grades for these students to protect their privacy and wellbeing. We consider that withholding this information is necessary to protect against the identity of these students being determined or inferred, and their personal information (i.e. their marks) could be disclosed. We therefore withhold this information pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
- on occasions where there are fewer than 10 enrolments in a paper, we have also determined that it is necessary to withhold the mark and grade distributions for these papers to protect the privacy and wellbeing of students enrolled. Where class sizes are small, we consider that withholding this information is necessary to protect against the identity of these students being determined or inferred, and their personal information (i.e. their marks) being disclosed. We therefore withhold the following mark and grade distributions pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Act:
 - 2021: ASIA301
 - 2022: ASIA301, EDUC318. MAOR210
- please note that not all papers were offered each year, therefore we have only provided mark and grade breakdowns for the years that the papers were offered and where there

were 10 or more enrolments.

- in the attached mark and grade distributions, students who withdrew from the papers or received an Aegrotat Pass grade or Absent grade (not marks) are excluded from the data.

I trust that this information will be helpful.

In the above cases, we consider that good reasons exist for withholding information and this is not outweighed by other considerations which would make it desirable, in the public interest, to make the information available. If you are not satisfied with our response to your information request, section 28(3) of the Act provides you with the right to ask an Ombudsman to investigate and review this response. However, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss any concerns with you first.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kelsey Kennard', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kelsey Kennard
Official Information and Compliance Coordinator
Office of the Registrar