

6 September 2024

By email: fyi-request-27805-3ca5fb2b@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Tony

I refer to your request for information dated 24 July 2024 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You have requested:

“Could you please provide a redacted list for each year (2021-2024) which shows the following for all Med Student applications from HSFY

- 1. Grades they received for the 7 compulsory papers and 8th if applicable with the overall grade average*
- 2. Which pathway they were each were applying through (General, Māori, Indigenous Pacific, Social Economic Equity, Refugee and Rural)*
- 3. Whether they were accepted or not”*

Due to the substantial amount of work that would be required to research and collate the information you have requested, we are refusing your request under section 18(f) of the Act. Our student management systems do not hold the information in the way you have requested, and our staff have advised that between 2021 – 2024, approximately 2,000 students have applied for the University’s Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MB ChB) programme via the Health Sciences First Year (HSFY) category. It would require extensive staff time to collate this list and manually look at each students’ individual file to identify the information you have requested.

Accordingly, we need to refuse your request because the scope of your request is extremely broad and would require substantial staff time to research and collate the information. For example, because applicants can be declined at multiple stages of the process (e.g., if a student does not meet the UCAT thresholds they are declined automatically), it means that some applicants are declined entry to the programme before their final grades for the academic year are confirmed. Our staff would therefore need to review a variety of sources to ascertain the information you have requested, and then manually manipulate and combine the data. Such an undertaking is not practically possible. Our decision is made pursuant to section 18(f) of the Act, on the basis that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

We considered whether fixing a charge or further extending our timeframe for responding to your request would be appropriate – however, given how long it would take our staff to collate the information, and that it is not practically possible for these staff members to allocate their time towards such a request, we decided that fixing a charge was not an appropriate or pragmatic solution. Our staff estimated that it would take them at minimum 25.5 hours bring together the information you have requested. We note that this is a conservative estimate. In accordance with general guidance available from the Office of the Ombudsman, the charge set for supply of this information would be at least \$1,862 (calculated at \$38 per half hour with the first hour free).

In any case, we also note that we would have privacy concerns with the release of this information. It is the University’s standard practice to not release any data unless it is collated and anonymised, and that the identification of individuals could not be determined or inferred, particularly where

numbers are low. We believe that an individual's identity could be reasonably ascertained from the provision of this data, because it includes sufficient descriptive information about individuals to be able to identify them. In an area where entry to the programme is competitive, we also feel that disclosure of this information could lead to harassment, bullying, and threats to some individuals, particularly where there are low numbers. Even if your request did not require substantial research and collation, we would have been likely to decline all or part of your request pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Act, in order to protect the privacy of natural persons.

While we cannot meet your exact request, we are able to provide you with:

- the number of applicants to the 2021 – 2024 MB ChB programme, broken down by equity group;
- the number of applicants to receive offers to the 2021 – 2024 MB ChB programme via the HSFY category, broken down by equity group; and
- the minimum average academic scores to receive offers to the 2021 – 2024 MB ChB programme via the HSFY category, broken down by equity group.

Subject to the following comment, please see below this information.

- the data is correct as at 6 September 2024.

1. Number of applicants and the number of applicants to receive offers to the 2021 – 2024 MB ChB programme via the HSFY category, broken down by equity group

Please see the below tables which show the number of applicants and the number of applicants to receive offers to the 2021 – 2024 MB ChB programme via the HSFY category, broken down by equity group:

	Number of applicants to the MB ChB programme, HSFY category			
	2021	2022	2023	2024
General	356	305	266	307
Māori	67	67	50	58
Pacific	26	27	22	26
Socioeconomic	16	6	17	11
Refugee	12	12	12	13
Rural	79	72	30	39

	Number of applicants to receive offers to the MB ChB programme, HSFY category			
	2021	2022	2023	2024
General	109	102	128	138
Māori	46	52	36	48
Pacific	11	13	14	17
Socioeconomic	11	5	10	6
Refugee	9	7	7	13
Rural	41	41	24	28

2. Minimum average academic scores to receive offers to the 2021 – 2024 MB ChB programme via the HSFY category, broken down by equity group

	Minimum average academic scores to receive an offer to the MB ChB programme, HSFY category			
	2021	2022	2023	2024
General	95.14	93.00	89.43	89.57
Māori	70.00	69.14	70.29	70.43
Pacific	71.00	69.57	67.43	65.43
Socioeconomic	70.86	73.29	71.57	71.57
Refugee	77.14	74.71	73.86	71.43
Rural	73.57	86.00	78.29	79.71

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.

Ngā mihi



Kelsey Kennard
Official Information and Compliance Coordinator
Office of the Registrar and Secretary to the Council