

24 January 2025

By email: fyi-request-29288-5a12bf66@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe LN

I refer to your request for information dated 22 November 2024 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You have requested certain grade and mark distributions for LAWS papers, as well as for particular examinations and assignments.

We are pleased to advise that anonymised statistical academic results data for papers offered by the University will soon be published on our website: <https://www.otago.ac.nz/about/quickstats>. We are doing this so that all students can access this information at any time.

The published spreadsheet will indicate the number of students who achieved a particular grade or percentage mark for semester one, semester two, full year and summer school papers for each year from 2019 to 2024. This grade and mark distribution data will essentially be the same as that which we would provide in response to individual information requests made under the Act.

The University will continue to withhold information where necessary to avoid the identity of students being determined or inferred and their personal information being disclosed, to protect their privacy and wellbeing. Data will **not** be published:

- for any students in a paper, if fewer than ten (<10) students were enrolled in that paper, or
- indicating fail grade and mark data, if fewer than five (<5) students have failed a paper (a grade of Fail D, Fail E, Failed Compulsory Assessment or Failed Terms), or
- for students who withdrew from a paper or received an Aegrotat Pass.

The data will be published as it was held as at 31 December 2024. If grade and mark distribution data for any papers was not confirmed at this date, data for those papers may not be initially published. Grade and mark distribution data will later be updated based on data as held at 31 March 2025 and again as held at 31 July 2025, to ensure the data becomes complete over time.

Accordingly, the University declines your request for grade and mark distributions for LAWS papers, under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information you have requested will soon be made publicly available. We will endeavour to email you to advise when the data will be or has been published.

We decline to provide the grade and mark distributions for the particular examinations and assignments you have requested, pursuant to section 18(f) of the Act, on the basis that this information requires substantial collation or research. Unlike mark and grade distribution information for overall paper results, mark and grade distribution information in relation to internal assessments is not held centrally and requires manual creation. You have requested this for multiple papers. We considered proposing a charge to provide this information, but we cannot justify the diversion of resources to undertake this work at this time. We would of course consider any subsequent refinement of your request, if you are interested in a particular assignment or examination within a particular paper.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Frewen', written in a cursive style.

Bill Frewen
Manager Policy and Compliance