



University of East Anglia

Information Services Directorate

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15 January 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Information request (ref: FOI\_17-306)**

We have now considered your request of 13 December 2017, as amended on 08 January 2018, for the following information:

*'Information for each of the following undergraduate programmes provided by the University:*

- 1. Law/legal knowledge subjects taught*
- 2. History and History joint subjects (e.g. history and politics)*
- 3. Economics and Economics joint subjects*
- 4. Mathematics and Mathematics joint subjects*

*For each of these courses I would like to know:*

- a) The average mark attained in each first year module in the academic year 2016/2017*
- b) The average mark attained in each second year module in the academic year 2016/17*
- c) The average mark attained in each final year module in the academic year 2016/17*
- d) The average overall mark attained by students at the end of their first year of studies in the academic year 2016/2017.*
- e) The average overall mark attained by students at the end of their second year of studies in the academic year 2016/2017*
- f) The average overall mark attained by students in their final year of studies in the academic year 2016/2017.*
- g) The average numerical mark attained in the overall final degree award classification (taking into account all exams and coursework that contribute to the final degree classification, e.g. a 2:1 may be equivalent to 64) in the academic year 2016/2017*

*The information requested should be restricted to those who, by the university's*

*regulations, sat the examination so please exclude those who failed to attend the examination and may have been awarded a mark of zero.'*

*[Amended on 08 January to withdraw the request that the data be restricted to those student who actually sat examinations]*

Our response is within the attached document 'FOI\_17-306 Appendix A'.

On this occasion, it is not possible to provide all the requested information. The Act contains a number of exemptions that allow public authorities to withhold certain information from release. We have applied the following exemption to part of your request.

Exemption	Reason
s.40(2), Personal information	Disclosure of information would contravene one of the data protection principles

Within all the courses relating to your request there are a number of modules and courses on which only one student was enrolled during the requested time period. Any disclosure of the requested average marks would therefore reveal the marks achieved by that one student. In addition, where only two students were enrolled, disclosure of the average mark to one student would reveal the other's mark. We believe that this information represents those students' personal data, as defined by section 1(1) of the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA).

When a request is made under FOIA for information that includes personal data we are required to consider whether disclosing those data would breach the data protection principles contained within the DPA. We must also consider that a release of information under FOIA is essentially a public release of information.

We believe that disclosure of the information relating to individuals would be against the first data protection principle under the DPA; namely that information must be fairly and lawfully processed, and that the processing also meets one of the conditions set out in Schedule 2 of that Act. We do not have consent for the release of this information, and in this case we do not consider disclosure of the data to be necessary under any of the other conditions of Schedule 2. We have therefore concluded that disclosure of this information would not be fair.

We hope this information will meet your requirements, however if you are not satisfied you have the right of appeal. If you wish to appeal, please set out in writing your reasons for appealing and send to the above address. You must appeal within 60 calendar days of the date of this letter. Any appeal received after that date will not be considered nor acknowledged. This policy has been reviewed and approved by the Information Commissioner's Office.

You also have a subsequent right of appeal to the Information Commissioner's Office. Further information is available on their website:

[https://ico.org.uk/Global/contact\\_us](https://ico.org.uk/Global/contact_us), or by telephone on 0303 123 1113.

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Please quote our reference given at the head of this letter in all correspondence.

Yours sincerely

Dave Palmer  
Information Policy and Compliance Manager  
University of East Anglia