



12 September 2019

By email: [fyi-request-10781-62a17286@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-10781-62a17286@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Ms Roe,

Please find the following answers to your Official Information Act request of 18 August 2019.

*How many people (2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019) informed Admissions that 'Alternative Category' was not appearing as an application in their eVision during the finite window [for the MB ChB programme]? How many of those people went on to successfully submit 'Alternative Category' application?*

The University of Otago does not hold this information. Health Sciences Admissions Office staff reported that a number of applicants seek assistance with their applications every year (for example, due to being in the wrong part of the application form or confused regarding which category to apply under). Additionally, in 2017 a system issue was identified which initially prevented some students from applying under the Alternative category; this issue was subsequently resolved.

These matters will have been advised and managed via telephone, email, in person, or using other support channels. Information on individual student contact is not recorded in our systems, except incidentally (for example where an applicant sends an email). For this reason we cannot determine with any accuracy the number or identity of students who might have made contact, nor the subsequent behaviour of those people. Therefore, pursuant to section 18(g) of the Official Information Act, I refuse this part of your request. I advise of your right to seek review of this decision via complaint to an Ombudsman.

*Please can you inform New Zealanders what proportion of 'Alternative Category' applicants are culled via pre-screening (2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019) [for the MB ChB programme]?*

The following figures are for numbers of applicants who chose the alternative category in their application and the number of applicants that were invited to an interview.

Year	Applied to Alternative Category*	Invited to Interview for Alternative Category
2015	152	48
2016	109	53

2017	142	35
2018	113	42
2019	112	39

\*Note, in a small number of instances, an applicant may have applied to the incorrect category and had their category corrected through the screening process.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CG', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Claire Gallop  
Manager, Policy and Compliance, Office of the Registrar