



24 November 2022

By email: fyi-request-20967-2a38d214@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Alex

I refer to your information request dated 27 October 2022 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You have requested information in relation to students from the Residential Colleges who entered the University of Otago's Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MB ChB) programme from 2018 – 2023 via the Health Sciences First Year (HSFY) category.

Subject to the following comments, please see attached the information you have requested. Please note that there are two pages in the attached spreadsheet.

- we decline providing the information in relation to entry to the 2023 MB ChB programme pursuant to section 18(e) of the Act, on the basis that the information does not exist. Final numbers for the 2023 MB ChB programme have not been confirmed yet. The data will not be known and therefore will not be available until the end of March 2023 – as student offers will continue until the beginning of Semester One 2023.
- it is the University's standard practice to not report on data that relates to fewer than five students where we consider that such disclosure could affect an individual's privacy and wellbeing. Where the numbers are low, there is a risk that the identity of these students could be determined/inferred, and that their personal information could be revealed. Accordingly, we note that where there are fewer than 5 students from a Residential College who entered the MB ChB programme in a particular year or via a particular sub-category, we have indicated this using "<5" ("fewer than 5") – pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
- please note that prior to 2019, Caroline Freeman College was named City College.
- please also note that the Socio-economic Equity and Refugee sub-categories were introduced for entry to the Health Sciences Professional Programmes (including MB ChB) from 2020 entry onwards.
- the data includes International and Domestic students.

I trust that this information will be helpful.

In the above cases, we do not consider that the reasons for withholding information are 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 black ink, appearing to read 'Kelsey Kennard', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kelsey Kennard
Official Information and Compliance Coordinator
Office of the Registrar