

4 December 2024

By email: fyi-request-29107-09392187@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Katie

I refer to your request for information dated 7 November 2024 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You have requested:

“Please provide the 2024 end-of-year exam results (combined Paper A and B) for 5th-year medical students at Otago University, including:

- *Average percentage for each campus (Wellington, Dunedin, and Christchurch)*
- *Lowest percentage for each campus*
- *Overall fail rate*
- *Number of questions removed from the exams*
- *Explanation of how the pass mark percentage was determined and its final value*
- *Breakdown of the number of questions from each vertical or block module”*

Please see below our response to your request.

Staff in the Otago Medical School produce a report each year that contains the following information from your request:

- The number of students who passed the examination
- The number of students who failed the examination
- The number of questions removed from the examination
- An explanation of how the pass mark percentage was determined and its final value
- A breakdown of the number of questions in each category

This report is made available to staff and students. The report containing information for the 2024 ALM5 programme has not been completed and will not be finalised until later in December 2024. Staff do not have the capacity to complete this report any earlier, and asking them to produce the report now would cause an unreasonable and significant impact on their ability to carry out other critical operations. On that basis, this part of your request is declined pursuant to section 18(f) of the Act, as the information cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

If you are a staff member or ALM5 student, the report will be made available to you later this year or in early 2025. If you are not a staff member or ALM5 student, we would be happy to consider a new Official Information Act request in early 2025 once this information has been confirmed.

Some of the information you have requested is already publicly available via the MBChB Assessment Policies and Procedures 2024 document, which is available on the following webpage: <https://www.otago.ac.nz/oms/education/mbchb/current-students/resources/policies-guides>.

We note that the report will not contain the following information from your request:

- Average percentage for each campus
- Lowest percentage for each campus

We decline providing the average percentage for each campus pursuant to section 18(g) of the Act, as the information requested is not held by the University. The University does not calculate average percentages for each campus, and note that we are not required to create information in order to respond to a request.

We decline providing the lowest percentage for each campus pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Act, in order to protect the privacy of natural persons. As the number of students who fail the examination is very low, providing a breakdown by campus could reveal the identity of these students and disclose their personal information (i.e., their exam results).

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
Policy Analyst
Office of the Registrar and Secretary to the Council