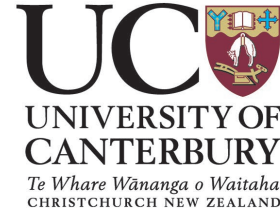


Office of the Registrar  
Information and Records Management  
Tel: +64 3 366 7001  
Email: records@canterbury.ac.nz  
Web: www.canterbury.ac.nz/irm



12 December 2024

H.G.

By email: [fyi-request-29337-53e8e6c4@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-29337-53e8e6c4@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear H.G.

### **OIA 24.184 Registered Psychologists in Clinical Psychology**

I refer to the Official Information Act (the Act) request dated 26 November 2024 regarding Registered Psychologists in Clinical Psychology. You have specifically requested:

- *I am requesting information regarding:*
  - *the number of registered psychologists who have applied for your clinical psychology programme each year for the years 2020 - 2024.*
  - *the number of registered psychologists who have been offered places in your clinical psychology programme each year for the years 2020 - 2024.*

*I note that recent proposed changes by the Psychologists' Board would narrow the scope of registered psychologists, so that only clinical psychologists would be able to make complex mental health assessments and diagnoses. If these proposed changes were implemented, registered psychologists would either be unable to make complex mental health assessments and diagnoses, or would have to be considered on a case-by-case basis to do so.*

*I am wondering whether these proposed changes may have led to increased numbers of registered psychologists applying for clinical psychology qualifications, because a clinical qualification would allow them to continue to make complex mental health assessments and diagnoses, even if the changes proposed by the Psychology Board go ahead.*

*As such please, advise whether your clinical psychology admissions staff have noted any new trends in clinical psychology applications - formally or informally - that could be related to these proposed changes.*

The Public Records Act 2005 (PRA) covers the retention and secure destruction of records for the public sector. Universities in New Zealand have their own retention schedule which they are required to follow ([Disposal Authority 702 New Zealand Universities Disposal Schedule](#)). Unsuccessful applications to academic programmes can be securely destroyed after one year as per sub-class 15.6. Therefore, the application information for unsuccessful applications has been securely destroyed as per the schedule. Where appropriate and possible, the Clinical Psychology team also return original documents to applicants. Therefore, the request for how many registered psychologists have applied for the Clinical Psychology programme is refused under s 18(e) of the Act, as despite reasonable efforts, the information cannot be found.

However, the Clinical Psychology team have stated that they have not noted an increase in registered psychologists applying to the programme in recent years.

During 2020-2024 there have been  $\leq 5$  students who were already a registered psychologist when they were admitted into the Clinical Psychology programme.

Please note that where there are five or less students in a particular category, the actual number is not provided, rather a range of less than or equal to five ( $\leq 5$ ). This is to protect the individual's privacy under s 9(2)(a) of the Act. It is in the public interest that individuals are not identifiable when providing information about course numbers.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

Information and Records Management