

5 June 2026

By email: fyi-request-34432-cbd2e344@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe

I refer to your information request dated 8 April 2026 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

I request the following information regarding admissions to the Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB) programme at the University of Otago:

The number of applicants, within each of the past five admission cycles, who were declined entry to the MBChB programme where health-related concerns disclosed through the Health and Conduct Declaration process were a contributing factor in the decision to decline admission.

If available, the number of applicants within each of the past five admission cycles whose health declarations were referred for further review by the relevant Health and Conduct Review Group or equivalent committee/panel.

I understand that any personal identifying information relating to applicants may be withheld in accordance with the Privacy Act and Official Information Act provisions, and I am only requesting anonymised/statistical and policy-based information.

Our response to your request follows.

Records held by our admissions team indicate that fewer than five individuals have been declined admission to the second year of the Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MB ChB) programme commencing in the five years 2022 to 2026.

It is the University's standard practice not to provide information where it relates to fewer than five individuals and we consider that such disclosure could affect an individual's privacy and wellbeing. Where the numbers are very low, there is a risk that the identity of these students could be determined or inferred, and that their personal information could be disclosed. Accordingly, we decline to provide further details under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons. We consider that good reasons exist for withholding information, not outweighed by other considerations which would make it desirable, in the public interest, to make the information available.

We hope this information is helpful.

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 again welcome the opportunity to discuss any concerns with you first.

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Frewen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Bill Frewen
Manager Policy and Compliance