

Mark Dixon

By email only to: request-698557-456ff190@whatdotheyknow.com

18 December 2020

Dear Mark Dixon,

**RITM034643: Internal review of RITM0334438 - MSC Oceanography 2017-19 statistics**

I refer to your email of 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020, wherein you requested a review of the University's response to an FOI request made on the 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020. A copy of the original request and the University's response are set out in appendices to this letter.

In your request for a review of the University's decision you stated that our response that the requested data will be available on the UCAS website was incorrect, as the UCAS website does not provide data on postgraduate University of Southampton courses.

My review has considered whether the University correctly answered your freedom of information request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the Act").

The University's first obligation under the section 1(a) of the Act, is to advise you whether the University does hold the information specified in your request. Following this review, I conclude that the University correctly stated it held the information.

The University provided you with a link to the publicly available UCAS site where we stated the information could be found at a future date. Your request was considered exempt from disclosure due to future publication under [Section 22](#) of the Act.

Upon further consultation, the University concludes that the information requested is not available on UCAS or another publicly available site. Following this internal review your request for a review has been upheld and the answers to your questions can be found below:

**MSC Oceanography 2017-19 statistics table**

Academic Year	Applications	Offers	Acceptances
2017/18	102	56	37
2018/19	80	34	20
2019/20	85	49	29

Information Commissioner's Office,  
Wycliffe House, Water Lane,  
Wilmslow, Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "foi". The letters are lowercase and written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Richard Middleton  
Chief Operating Officer

**Appendix A**

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 | LEGAL SERVICES – FOI@SOTON.AC.UK  
REF: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION  
INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON

By email only to: request-698557-456ff190@whatdotheyknow.com

27 November 2020

Dear Mark Dixon,

Freedom of Information Act 2000

Request for information: response

Date of request: 14 October 2020

Due date: 11 November 2020

Ref: RITM0334438

We refer to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the Act").

Below is your question with the University's corresponding response.

**Question:**

Dear University of Southampton,

Please provide details of the number of applications, offers and acceptances for the MSc in Oceanography for each of the academic years 2017, 2018 and 2019.

**Answer:**

In accordance with [section 1\(a\)](#) of the Act we confirm the University that the University holds information of the description specified in your request.

This data is also available publicly in the UCAS website: UCAS website: <https://www.ucas.com/data-and-analysis>

However, we understand that the info regarding the academic year 2019 will be part of the 2020 cycle (End of cycle) that will be available around March 2021 according to the UCAS calendar of publications.

Currently, the data available cover the end of Cycle 2018/19 (2019 cycle) and according to the UCAS calendar of publication the 2020 cycle should be public around March 2020

As information should be published on the above UCAS website around March 2020, it is exempt from disclosure by virtue of [Section 22](#) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, subject to a public interest test.

In assessing the public interest test we have considered [recommendations](#) by the Information Commissioner's Office. As section 22 is a qualified exemption, the University consider whether the public interest in maintaining the exemption is greater than the public interest in disclosing the information. Where the public interest is equally balanced, the authority must disclose the requested information.

If you do not feel that we have dealt with your request in accordance with the requirements of [Part I](#) of the Act, you may request a review. Your request for a review should specify in what respect you consider that the requirements of [Part I](#) have not been met. Please address your request to the Chief Operating Officer at the following address: [foi@soton.ac.uk](mailto:foi@soton.ac.uk).

In accordance with section 5.3 of the [Code of Practice](#), a request for a review must be sent within 40 working days of the date of this email. The University is not obliged to accept any requests for a review beyond 40 working days.

We will endeavour to respond to your request for a review within 20 working days of receipt.

The Information Commissioner is responsible for enforcing rights of access to information and the operation of the publication scheme. You may apply to the Information Commissioner in writing (FOI/EIR Complaints Resolution, Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF) or [electronically](#) for a decision whether, in any specified respect, your request for information has been dealt with by the University in accordance with the requirements of [Part I](#) of the Act. The Information Commissioner will not normally take action unless they are satisfied that the University's review procedure has been exhausted.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "foi".

Freedom of Information Office

email: [foi@soton.ac.uk](mailto:foi@soton.ac.uk)

Ref:MSG9426197