



27 January 2020

Sam Morgan

By email: fyi-request-11993-bb7b4c2b@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Sam

Official information request for information related to Bachelor of Engineering Honours students

I refer to your request for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) dated 8 January 2020:

*“I would like to request the highest average GPAs achieved by Bachelor of Engineering with Honours students that graduated in the past 5 years and those expecting to graduate in May 2020.
Therefore, for each graduation year e.g. 2020 you would provide the average GPA of the best-performing student over all years of their study period.”*

The University often awards the student with the top GPA completing a Bachelor of Engineering with Honours that year with the Engineering Medal. With this in mind, the release of the highest GPA achieved for each year over the past five years would reveal the GPA achieved by the recipient of the Engineering Medal. The University believes the release of this information would breach the privacy of these students. Accordingly, the University withholds the requested information under section 9(2)(a) of the Act on the basis that “the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy” of said students. The University does not believe that any public interest in the requested information outweighs the students’ right to privacy.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of the University’s decision to withhold this information. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact me at oiarequests@vuw.ac.nz.

Yours sincerely

Georgia Tawharu

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