



25 July 2023

By email: fyi-request-23333-ce187381@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe KH

I refer to your information request dated 9 December 2022 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You have requested mark and grade distributions for the Semester 1 2023 LAWS418, LAWS440, LAWS459, MFCO103 and POLS319 papers offered by the University of Otago.

Subject to the following comments, please see attached the information you have requested.

- we note that the grade and mark distribution for the Semester 1 2023 MFCO103 paper has not been finalised yet as there may be special examinations outstanding and the grades for some students have not been finalised. We are not comfortable releasing the data before all grades have been confirmed – as this may affect students' wellbeing and disrupt students' performance in special examinations. We are happy to grant your request but will release the grade and mark distributions for these papers once all student results have been confirmed – we anticipate that these will be finalised in early August.
- on occasions where fewer than five students have failed a paper (i.e. received a grade of Fail D or Fail E), we have determined that it is necessary to withhold the marks and specific grades for these students to protect their privacy and wellbeing. We consider that withholding this information is necessary to protect against the identity of these students being determined or inferred, and their personal information (i.e. their marks) could be disclosed. We therefore withhold this information pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
- in the attached grade and mark distributions, we note that students who withdrew from the papers are excluded from the data.

I trust that this information will be helpful. We will be back in touch once the mark and grade distribution for the Semester 1 2023 MFCO103 paper has been confirmed and is available.

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.

Yours sincerely

Kelsey Kennard
Official Information and Compliance Coordinator
Office of the Registrar