



11 December 2023

By email: fyi-request-24864-b0369b8c@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe R,

I refer to your information request dated 24 November 2023 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You have requested mark and grade distributions for the 200, 300, 400 and 500 level Dentistry papers offered by the University of Otago in 2023.

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

- the data is correct as at 7 December 2023.
- we note that DENT553 is a Pass/Fail paper. In 2023, all 83 students passed. This paper is excluded from the spreadsheet as there are no percentage marks assigned to students.
- We have included papers that are only taken as part of the Bachelor of Dental Surgery with Honours. These papers are DENT561, DENT563, DENT580 and DENT581.
- 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.
- on occasions where fewer than ten students are enrolled in a paper, we determine that it is necessary to withhold the mark and grade distributions for these papers. As there were fewer than ten enrolments in the 2023 DENT364 paper, we have withheld the mark and grade distribution for this paper to protect students' 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 and grades) could be disclosed. We therefore withhold this information pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Act. However, we note that DENT364 is not part of the standard Bachelor of Dental Surgery degree, and is available only for approved students admitted under the International Medical University Partnership Programme.

I trust that this information will be helpful.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jo Pearson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

Jo Pearson
Official Information Act Administrator
Office of the Registrar