



29 January 2024

By email: [fyi-request-25218-5cf9867b@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-25218-5cf9867b@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe S

I refer to your information request dated 17 December 2023 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You have requested the mark and grade distributions for all English (ENGL) papers offered by the University of Otago in 2023.

Subject to the following comments, please see attached the information you have requested. Please note that there are three pages in the attached document (one for each paper year level).

- the data is correct as at 29 January 2024.
- we note that the grade and mark distributions for the 2023 ENGL127 (Semester 2), ENGL131 and ENGL228 papers have not been finalised yet as the final grades for some students have not been confirmed. On that basis, we decline this part of your request pursuant to section 18(g) of the Act, as the information requested is not held by the University as at today's date. We would be happy to consider a new request from you at a later date if you still wish to receive this information – we expect that all student grades will be confirmed by late February 2024.
- 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 ENGL454 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.
- we note that the data includes a paper where either a pass or fail result is given (i.e., students do not receive a final percentage mark). This paper is ENGL126.

- in the attached grade and mark distributions, we note that students who withdrew from the papers or received an Aegrotat Pass (not a grade or mark) are excluded from the data.

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.

Ngā mihi



Kelsey Kennard  
Official Information and Compliance Coordinator  
Office of the Registrar