

Legal
Compliance
Students and
Education Support
Directorate

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██████████
By Email: ██████████

Thursday, 23 January 2014

Dear ██████████,

Freedom of Information Act 2000 request – Appeals against marks received.

In response to your request for information dated 6 January 2014, made under section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“the Act”), I am writing to confirm that some of the information you require exists and is included in our response.

For information not available and explanation is provided in our response below.

You asked the following:

1. *“How many appeals were there in the last three academic years (10/11, 11/12, 12/13) by students against the marks they received. I would like to know if the appeal was successful or not.*

Please see the response below and Table 1.

2. *I would like to know what year the student was in at the time of the appeal.*

Please see the response below and Table 2.

3. *I would like to know what type of assessment the appeal was for (essay, exam, practical etc)”*

Information not held. Please see the response below.

For your questions “*How many appeals were there in the last three academic years (10/11, 11/12, 12/13) by students against the marks they received*” and “*I would like to know what type of assessment the appeal was for (essay, exam, practical etc)*” the College is only able to respond in terms of the number of appeals submitted as it is not possible to answer solely on the basis of appeals against individual module marks, as the College does not record this information.

King’s students are not permitted to appeal against individual components of a module. Each module might be broken up into various components (i.e. practical, coursework and examination) but the student only needs to achieve a pass-mark in the module overall (unless otherwise specified in the module specification). Students can therefore only appeal overall module results and not components of modules.

Table 1. *Number of successful and unsuccessful appeals in the last three academic years (10/11, 11/12, 12/13) by students against the marks they received.*

Year	Received	Successful	2 nd Stage Appeals Received	COPs Issued
2010-11	251	78	71	66
2011-12	271	89	49	44
2012-13	324	110	78	64

The different outcomes of appeals are intrinsically linked, as a student might have failed a module at the second attempt and not be granted a third attempt. They might therefore have been granted an exit award as a consequence and not be allowed to progress into their next year of study. The appeal therefore would be appealing three different decisions made by the Board, all based on the result of one or more modules.

After the first stage of the appeals process, students have the opportunity to submit a further appeal against the decision made at the first stage (Second Stage Appeals). The potential outcome of these appeals may be that an Appeal Committee is convened to consider the case in full and a decision is made to modify the original decision or allow the Board a further opportunity to reconsider its decision. Alternatively the Second Stage Appeal is unsuccessful and the procedures have been exhausted, in these cases the student is sent a Completion of Procedures letter (“COP”) in accordance with OIA guidelines.

Table 2. *The year the student was in at the time of the appeal.*

Year	- Level 4	- Level 5	- Level 6	Level 7	PGR or Unknown
2010-11	/	/	/	/	251
2011-12	110	51	47	60	3
2012-13	119	57	57	92	/

The College has recorded for some of the requested years the level the student has been studying at. The College’s levels for students joining the College after September 2007 relate broadly to the following years of study:

Level 4	First year undergraduate	Some programmes allow students to take modules outside of these boundaries – for instance modules taken in both Y2 and Y3 of the LLB programme are L6.
Level 5	Second year undergraduate	
Level 6	Third year undergraduate	
Level 7	Postgraduate level (PGDip/MA etc)	

This completes your request for information.

If you feel your request has not been properly handled or you are otherwise dissatisfied with the outcome of your request, you have the right to complain. Details of how to make a complaint can be found in our FoI Policy, a copy of which is available on our web site at:

<http://www.kcl.ac.uk/college/policyzone/index.php?id=209>.

Further information is also available from the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 01625 545 700
www.ico.gov.uk

Yours sincerely



Sarah Crampton
Legal Compliance Officer