

Pakistan Information Commission

1st Floor, National Arcade, A-4 Plaza
 F-8 Markaz, (Near PSO)
 Islamabad .
 Website: www.rti.gov.pk

**Appeal No-226-12/2019****Asadullah**

(Appellant)

Vs.

**Joint Secretary, Admn. & Finance Wing,
 Ministry of Religious Affairs & Inter-faith Harmony**

(Respondent)

ORDER**Mohammad Azam:** Chief Information Commissioner**A. The Appeal**

1. The Appellant filed an appeal with the commission on 12/12/2019 in which he stated that he had requested information from Ministry of Religious Affairs & Inter-faith Harmony under the Right of Access to Information Act 2017.
2. The information sought by the Complainant, through application dated 05/11/2019, is as under
 - i. “Allocation of development fund to your department for the financial year 2018-19
 - ii. Utilization of development fund by your department in the year 2018-19”.

B. Proceedings

3. Through a notice dated 20/12/2019, the Commission called upon the Respondent to submit reasons for not providing the requested information.
4. The Respondent did not respond to the notice and the hearing date was fixed for 11/02/2020 through the hearing notice sent on 27/01/2020 and both parties were informed accordingly.
5. No one appeared on behalf of the Respondent on the date of hearing on 11/02/2020.

C. Discussion and Commission’s View on Relevant Issues

6. The requested information by the appellant falls within Sections 5 (g) and 6(b) of the Right of Access to Information Act 2017. The requested information by the applicant requires proactive disclosure as it relates to allocation of

Development Budget for the year 2018-19 and utilization of development funds by the Ministry of Religious Affairs & Inter-faith Harmony.

7. It is a matter of grave concern as to why has the Respondent failed to respond to the notices issued by the Commission.
8. The Respondent failed to implement Section 12 and Section 13 (1) & (2) of the Right of Access to Information Act 2017 as requested information has not been provided to the appellant.
9. The commission is of the view that the Respondent has not provided the requested information to the citizen within a maximum of 20 working days of the receipt of the information request and thus failed to comply with Section 14 (1) and (2) of the Right of Access to Information Act 2017.

D. Order

10. The appeal is allowed. The Respondent is directed to provide the information to the Appellant, with intimation to this office as per his request at the earliest, but in any case, not later than 10 working days of the receipt of this order. Furthermore, the Respondent is directed to take immediate steps to proactively share through the web site all categories of information mentioned in Section 5 of the Right of Access to Information Act 2017 and submit the compliance report to the commission by 24/08/2020.
11. Copies of this order be sent to the Secretary Ministry of Religious Affairs & Inter-faith Harmony, Respondent and the Appellant for information and necessary action.

Mohammad Azam
Chief Information Commissioner

Fawad Malik
Information Commissioner

Zahid Abdullah
Information Commissioner

Announced on: July 21, 2020

This decision consists of two pages and each page has been read and signed.