



Bi-Annual Report

July - December 2024

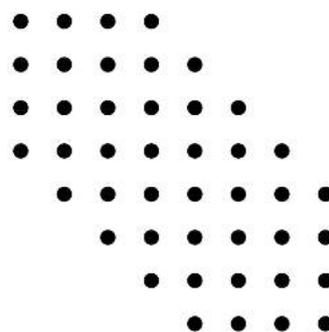


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Preamble of the Right of Access to Information Act, 2017

The government believes in transparency and the right to have access to information to ensure that the people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan have improved access to records held by public authorities and promote the purpose of making the government more accountable to its people, of improving participation by the people in public affairs, of reducing corruption and inefficiency in Government, of promoting sound economic growth, of promoting good governance and respect for human rights.

AND whereas it is expedient to provide for a law which gives effect to the fundamental right of access to information, as guaranteed under Article 19A of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and international law, whereby everyone shall have the right to have access to all information held by public bodies subject only to reasonable restrictions imposed by the law and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Meet Our Commissioners



SHOAIB AHMAD SIDDIQUI

CHIEF INFORMATION COMMISSIONER



IJAZ HASSAN AWAN

INFORMATION COMMISSIONER

Vision

To establish a culture of transparency, accountability, and informed citizenry by ensuring unhindered access to information, fostering trust between the public and government institutions, and empowering citizens to actively participate in governance.

Mission

The Pakistan Information Commission is committed to implementing the Right of Access to Information Act, 2017, by:

- Ensuring timely and effective resolution of appeals regarding access to information.
- Conducting awareness campaigns to educate citizens and public bodies about their rights and responsibilities under the Act.
- Facilitating access to information by conducting regular hearings in Lahore and Karachi.
- Collaborating with stakeholders to promote a culture of openness and good governance.
- Upholding the principles of transparency, fairness, and accountability in all aspects of its operations.

Enhancing Transparency through Public Information Sharing

Section 5 of the Right of Access to Information Act, 2017 obligates every public body to make maximum information publicly accessible through their official websites. This includes critical details such as the organization's rules and procedures, functions and responsibilities, staff designations, decision-making processes, budget allocations and utilization, and the names and contact details of Public Information Officers (PIOs).

This requirement underscores commitment to transparency and aims to ensure that citizens have direct access to essential information without formal requests. It is a key step towards fostering trust, accountability, and good governance.





To address the gaps in compliance with Section 5, the Pakistan Information Commission (PIC) has taken significant initiatives to encourage federal public bodies to make necessary information available online for public access. The Commission has issued multiple directives to public bodies, emphasizing the importance of sharing relevant information with citizens via their websites.

One notable action involved issuing instructions to the Ministry of Energy (Power Division) to ensure that all electricity distribution companies should publish load-shedding schedules on their respective websites. This directive aims to enhance transparency in service delivery and address public grievances regarding unannounced power outages.

Significant Orders

Pakistan Information Commission

Government Of Pakistan

Order

Appeal No: 3592-04/2024

Muhammad Raheel Munawar

Vs

Cabinet Division

Date; July 02, 2024

Appellant not present. Mr. Tanvir Ahmed Kakar, Section Officer appeared on behalf of the respondent/public body.

2. The representative of the public body has furnished written reply. It has been reported that information related to the procurement of vaccines and subsequent issuance of notification relates to the National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination Division and PPRA. It is further added that under the Rule of Business, 1973 Cabinet Division acts as the Secretariat of the Federal Cabinet. In respect of all cases to be submitted to the Federal Cabinet, the Secretary of the Ministry/Division concerned transmits to the Cabinet Secretary, a "Summary" with the approval of the Minister In-Charge, for placement before the Federal Cabinet and its sub-committees for their consideration and decision/recommendation of the concerned forum. In addition to that it is submitted that under section 7(b) of the Right of Access to Information Act, 2017, minutes of meetings, subject to the final decision by the public body has been excluded from the public body. Moreover, rule 24 (8) of the Rules of Business, 1973 provides that all papers submitted to the Cabinet are "Secret" until the discussion has taken place. Thereafter, each Secretary shall decide whether the case should continue to be classified as Secret and inform the Cabinet Division of his/her decision.

3. The Commission has examined the content of the information, appeal, written reply furnished by the public body and relevant law on the subject.

4. As far as the plea of the public body that information relates to National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination Division and PPRA is concerned it is noted in Para 2 of the written reply as admittedly matters are referred to the Cabinet Division by PPRA for approval/recommendation and minutes of meeting as well as the recommendations sent to the Cabinet Division by PPRA are held by the Cabinet Division.

5. Regarding the exclusion of the required information disclosure is concerned under section 7 (b) of the Right of Access to Information Act, 2017, minutes of the meeting are excluded from disclosure subject to the final decision by the public body and admittedly minutes of meeting, copy of which is required by the appellant in this case, have since been finally decided and are held by the Cabinet Division therefore, exemption from disclosure under Section 7 (b) of the Right of Access to Information Act, 2017 does not apply in the cases which are finally decided. As far as Rules of Business 1973 and Rule 24 (8) of the same are concerned, the matter is not found to be secret as under section 25 of the Right of Access to Information Act, 2017 the provisions of this act shall have effect notwithstanding anything inconsistent therewith contained in any other law for the time being in force. Since provisions of the Right of Access to Information Act, 2017 have an overriding effect on all other laws therefore plea of the public body under para 3(2) of the written statement is overruled.

6. In view of the above said discussion both the information mentioned in para 1 and 2 of the information request are held by the Cabinet Division and do not enjoy exemption from disclosure under section 7 and 16 of the Right of Access to Act, 2017 therefore, the appellant has a fundamental right to have access to the said documents and the public body is bound to share certified copies of the required information. Therefore the appeal is allowed. The Secretary, Cabinet Division is directed to furnish the required information to the appellant and the Commission within 10 days.

7. Adjourned for submission of compliance report on 24-07-2024.

-sd-

Ijaz Hassan Awan
Information Commissioner

-sd-

Shoaib Ahmad Siddiqui
Chief Information Commissioner

Pakistan Information Commission
Government Of Pakistan
Order
Appeal No: 3454-02/2024
Azmat Khan
Vs
State Bank of Pakistan (SBP)

August 07, 2024

Appellant not present. Dr. Inayat Hussain, Deputy Governor, Raza Mohsin Qizilbash, Director and Mehmood Nazir Rana, Law Officer, State Bank of Pakistan appeared on behalf of the respondent/public body.

2. The representative of the public body has filed an application before the Commission for review of order dared 27-05-24 vide which appeal was allowed and the Governor, State Bank of Pakistan was directed to disclose the required information and furnish it before the Commission within 10 days. However, in spite of laps of time provided to the public body for compliance of the order of the Commission, the required information was neither disclosed nor anybody appeared on behalf of the public body on the fixed date (08-07-24) whereupon notice was issued to the Law Officer of the public body and Mehmood Khan, Deputy Director, SBP to explain reasons for non-appearance and non-compliance of the order of the Commission. Notice was issued for 07-08-2024

3. In the review petition filed today, it has been submitted that para 3 of the order states that the information required by the appellant with respect to the top 1000 loan defaulter is available with SBP but it does not want to share it under the pretext that the said information is exempted from disclosure.

It is further added that neither law requires SBP to maintain such records nor does SBP maintain such list of defaulters. Moreover, Section 13A of the Banking Companies Ordinance 1962 under the caption of fidelity and Secrecy required that “ – every bank and financial institution shall, except as otherwise required by law, observe the practices and usage customary among bankers and, in particular, shall not divulge any information relating to the affairs of its customers except in circumstances in which it is, in accordance with the law, practice and usage customary among bankers, necessary or appropriate for a bank to divulge such information.”

4. The commission has examined the petition of the public body for review of order dated 27-05-24. It is noted that in response to the hearing notice issued by the Commission on the filing of this appeal, the SBP / public body furnished copy of reply dated 05-03-24 sent to the appellant whereby about query No. 1 of the information request it was stated that information pertaining to the record of banking companies and financial institutions relating to the accounts of their customers is excluded from the definition of the public record under section 7 (d) of the Right of Access to Information Act, 2017.

5. About query No 2 it was explained that SBP is not empowered to undertake investigations or inquiries of banks under provisions of Banking Companies Ordinance 1962.

6. Copy of the reply was communicated to the PIC vide email of the public body dated 19-03-24 and the appellant showed his satisfaction over the written reply of the public body to the extent of query No. 2 whereas he contested the plea of the public body about exemption of the said information from disclosure in respect of query No. 1.

7. The Commission after examining the record, plea of the public body, and the relevant law on the subject, found that the information required by the appellant at Serial No. 1 of the information for top 1000 loan defaulters is not in respect of accounts of bank or customers.

8. The bank in its written reply did not take the plea that it does not maintain record of the loan defaulters but sought the protection of section 7 (d) of the Right of Access to Information Act, 2017, therefore, the Commission found that exemption under section 7 (d) of the Right of Access to Information Act, 2017 is not attracted in this case and plea of the public body was turned down. It is also a fact that the SBP plays the role of regulator and regulates the functioning of all private and official banks of Pakistan hence it cannot be stated that it is not bound to maintain the record of defaulters and can share the required information being regulator after obtaining it from the concerned banks. The plea of the respondent relating to non-criminal nature of such acts is also not sustainable as the Act is only focusing on provision of information in terms of its requirements. The public body has to adopt a vigilant role of a good and proactive regulator instead of standing as a shield against the provision of information. The commission does not find any reason to review its order dated 27-05-2024 and hence the review petition is dismissed.

9. This order is essentially in line with the Act as per the elements relating to promotion of sound economic growth, good governance and respect for human rights. Transparency of this information would help in curbing unhealthy and undesirable practice of taking loans and getting away without payment.

10. Fix for submission on compliance report on 05-09-2024. Copy of the order be sent to both parties.

-sd-

Ijaz Hassan Awan
Information Commissioner

-sd-

Shoaib Ahmad Siddiqui
Chief Information Commissioner

**Pakistan Information Commission
Government Of Pakistan
Order**

Appeal No: 3521-03/2024

Nadeem Umer

Vs

Islamabad Healthcare Regulatory Authority

September 05, 2024

Hamza Akhtar, Law Officer, has appeared on behalf of the public body and filed reply of the rejoinder. As far as information required at Serail No. 1 (i) and 2 (i) and 3 (i) is concerned, the same has been provided however about information cited at Serial No. 1 (ii), 2 (ii) and 3 (ii) is concerned it is submitted that said information cannot be provided as it is inquiry reports conducted against the doctors and it pertains to personal privacy of the patients. The Commission has examined the plea of the public body, considered the arguments of learned law officer and consulted the law on the subject. According to Section 5 (i) of the Right of Access to Information Act, 2017, the principal officer of each public body shall, within six months of the commencement of the Act, ensure that Reports including performance reports, audit reports, evaluation reports, inquiry or investigative reports and other reports that have been finalized are duly published including uploading over the internet or in a manner which best ensures that these are accessible subject to reasonable restrictions based on limited resources.

2. The restrictions and exemptions provided under the Act do not debar the publishing of inquiry reports. As far as the plea of the public body about the privacy of a patient is concerned, it is noted that the complaints were filed by the patients against concerned doctors who had committed negligence during their treatment and these doctors have been convicted after the inquiry, therefore, inquiry report does not fall in the category of

privacy and fall within the public record which shall be published by the public body as provided under Section 5 of the Right of Access to Information Act, 2017, therefore, the plea of the public body about non-disclosure of the inquiry reports on the basis of personal privacy is turned down.

3. The Public Information Officer of the Islamabad Healthcare Regulatory Authority is directed to furnish certified copies of the said inquiry reports. Copy of the order be sent to both the parties.

-sd-

Ijaz Hassan Awan
Information Commissioner

-sd-

Shoaib Ahmad Siddiqui
Chief Information Commissioner



Pakistan Information Commission

Government Of Pakistan

Camp Office, Lahore

Order

Appeal No: 3843-08/24

Syed Majid Ali Shah

VS

Sheikh Zayed Hospital, Lahore

September 09, 2024

Appellant present in person. Tahir Yaseen Qureshi, Law Officer, Sheikh Zayed Hospital Lahore appeared on behalf of the public body. The public body has filed written reply which has been received in the Registrar office on 26-08-24. In the written statement the public body has submitted that the appellant claimed the hospital file pertaining to the record of inter-personal nature in regard to social aspect and socio-economic condition of the patient and other personal information. The medical professionals/institutions both are duty bound to preserve the information regarding each and every patient who approach this sacred institution for their treatment. It is further added that the institute has provided a complete summary with day to day treatment and prognosis as well copy of which is attached as Annex-A. The said copy has not been found annexed with the written reply.

2. Syed Majid Ali Shah appellant is the real brother of Syed Sajjad Ali Shah who was admitted in Sheikh Zayed Hospital on 13-04-2024 (Saturday) in emergency of the said hospital, who unfortunately died during the said admission on 16-04-24 at 11:55 PM. The appellant has requested to provide him copy of the complete file of the patient / deceased along with notes of the concerned doctors and treatment provided to the said patient. He has also desired to let him know the cause of death of the said patient.

3. On the last date of hearing, Mr. Tahir Yaseen appeared before the Commission and furnished photocopy of the summary with day-to-day treatment and prognosis, which was already provided to the appellant on the last date of hearing and the appellant after seeing it, was not satisfied with that and insisted to provide him copy of the file of the patient/deceased along with notes of the doctors whereupon the law officer was directed to call any responsible officer of the public body and ensure his presence before the Commission. The Commission waited till 3 O' Clock on the last date hearing and it was informed by the law officer, the staff of the Commission that written reply shall be submitted through post. The Commission has examined the contents of the information request, appeal and written reply furnished by the public body. The appellant claims to be real brother of the patient/deceased and he has annexed copy of his CNIC card in support of this claim which shows that the appellant is not alien to the patient but is real brother of the deceased and has the right to have the information about his treatment and cause of death. As far as, the plea of the public body about the personal information of the deceased is concerned, it is noted that said information is not personal to the extent of thick and thin and they have legal right to have the said information and it is also a case of public importance as it involves the death of a patient during the admission of the patient and his treatment. Furthermore, the preamble of the Act also states that the Government believes in transparency and the right to have access to information to ensure that the people of Islamic Republic of Pakistan have improved access to records held by public authorities and promote the purpose of making the government more accountable to its people, of improving participation by the people in public affairs, of reducing corruption and inefficiency in Government, of promoting sound economic growth, of promoting good governance and respect for human rights.

The Commission heard the arguments of the appellant and the representative of the public body and has also examined the information request, written reply of the public body and relevant provisions of the law. The plea of the public body about exemption from disclosure of the required information has not been found justified therefore, the appeal is allowed. The CEO, Sheikh Zayed Hospital is directed to furnish the required information (certified copy of the complete file of the treatment of the patient along with cause of death) within 10 days to the Commission as well as to the appellant.

4. Copy of the order be sent to both the parties. The appeal stands disposed of.

-sd-

Ijaz Hassan Awan
Information Commissioner

-sd-

Shoaib Ahmad Siddiqui
Chief Information Commissioner

Participation in Global Dialogue on Integrity and Transparency

On September 12, 2024, the Network for Integrity, in collaboration with the International Conference of Information Commissioners, hosted an online session titled "Contributions to the Fight Against Corruption and Promotion of Integrity in Public Life." The event brought together information commissioners, transparency advocates, and experts from around the world to discuss the pivotal role of access to information in promoting accountability and public integrity.

Mr. Ijaz Hassan Awan, Information Commissioner at the Pakistan Information Commission, represented Pakistan during the session via Zoom. Speaking at the conference, he emphasized the transformative potential of robust information laws in addressing corruption and building trust between citizens and government. "Access to information is not merely a right but a cornerstone for fostering transparency and integrity in governance," he remarked, underlining its significance in Pakistan's efforts to combat corruption and empower its citizens.

Highlighting Pakistan's journey toward transparency, Mr. Awan shared insights on the implementation of the Right of Access to Information Act, 2017. He also emphasized the need for collaborative efforts among nations to strengthen global practices and frameworks for transparency. His remarks resonated with the session's overarching theme, reinforcing the idea that access to information is a powerful tool in the fight against corruption and in ensuring an ethical and accountable public sector.

RTI Quiz Contest 2024

To enhance public awareness and foster a culture of transparency, accountability, and good governance, the Pakistan Information Commission organized a nationwide Pakistan RTI Quiz Contest 2024. The online contest, comprising 10 questions related to the Right of Access to Information Act, 2017, aimed to educate citizens –especially students, journalists, and youth–about their fundamental right to access information.

Chief Information Commissioner Shoaib Ahmad Siddiqui described the Act as a landmark legislation empowering citizens to obtain information from public authorities, thereby transforming citizen-government interactions. He emphasized that informed citizens play a vital role in strengthening democracy, transparency, and accountability.

A total of 2,511 entries were received from across Pakistan, with 49.98% female participation. The contest concluded on 25th September 2024, with winners announced on the International Day for Universal Access to Information on 28th September 2024.

Mr. Siddiqui reaffirmed that the Right to Information, under Article 19-A of the Constitution of Pakistan, is essential for promoting an informed and empowered society. He praised the initiative for raising awareness in alignment with Sustainable Development Goal 16, which advocates for “just, peaceful and inclusive societies.”

MEDIA COVERAGE



Pak RTI Quiz Contest 2024 announced for public awareness

Our Staff Reporter — September 23, 2024

ISLAMABAD - The Pakistan Information Commission has joined hands with the Press Network of Pakistan to organize a nationwide Pakistan RTI Quiz Contest 2024. The aim is to raise public awareness for promoting the culture of good-governance, accountability and transparency. The online quiz contest consists of 10 questions related to the Right of Access to Information Act, 2017, whereas each question is required to be answered within 30 seconds, according to a press release. The last date for participating in the quiz is 25th September 2024, and the announcement of winners is scheduled on the International Day for Universal Access to Information 2024, to be marked on 28th September 2024. Shoaib Ahmad Siddiqui, Chief Information Commissioner, termed the Right of Access to Information Act, 2017, a landmark legislation that not only empowers citizens of Pakistan to access information held by public authorities but also has revolutionized the way citizens interact with the government. "By exercising their fundamental Right to Information, Pakistani citizens can demonstrate their commitment to foster a much more informed, engaged, and prosperous society," the Chief Information Commissioner expressed while urging Pakistan nationals, especially university students, media persons and youngsters, to actively participate in the contest.

DAWN
E-PAPER | MARCH 08, 2025

SBP governor told to reveal top 1,000 defaulters

Bakhtawar Mian | Published July 9, 2024

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Information Commission has issued a directive to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) governor to disclose a list of top 1,000 loan defaulters in response to an information request made by a citizen.

The governor has been directed to disclose the required information and submit it to the Commission within 10 days.

Failure to comply will result in proceedings against the responsible parties under Section 20(f) of the Right of Access to Information Act, 2017, the commission has warned.

The request for information has been made by a citizen, Azmat Khan, who sought the list under the Right of Access to Information Act, 2017. In response, the State Bank of Pakistan requested exemption from disclosing the information under Section 7(d) of the Act, which relates to the records of banking companies and financial institutions concerning their customers' accounts.

The commission thoroughly examined the information request, the written reply from the SBP, and the relevant law.

The order clarified that Section 7(d) of the Right of Access to Information Act, 2017, which exempts certain records from disclosure, does not apply to the requested list of loan defaulters.

Published in Dawn, July 9th, 2024

THE EXPRESS
TRIBUNE
TODAY'S PAPER | MARCH 08, 2025 | E-PAPER

PIC penalises official

DNA December 13, 2024

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Information Commission (PIC) has imposed a fine equivalent to ten days' salary on the Islamabad Excise and Taxation Department director for failing to disclose information requested under the Right of Access to Information Act, 2017.

According to sources, in August 2024, a citizen, Saddia Mazhar, submitted an information request to the Excise and Taxation Department, seeking details regarding alcohol permits and sales in Islamabad.

The requested information included the total number of alcohol permit holders, beer purchases by these license holders since January 2023, a list of establishments licensed to sell alcohol, excise duties collected from these establishments, and the total supply made to these license holders.

Despite the request, the Excise and Taxation Department failed to respond.

Following this non-compliance, Saddia Mazhar filed an appeal with the PIC

روزنامہ دنیا

پاکستان انفارمیشن کمیشن کی طرف سے آن لائن کوئز مقابلے کا اعلان



23 ستمبر، 2024

اسلام آباد

اسلام آباد (خصوصی رپورٹ) پاکستان انفارمیشن کمیشن نے پبلک نیٹ ورک آف پاکستان کے اشتراک سے آن لائن کوئز مقابلے کے اہتمام کا اعلان کیا ہے۔

جس کا مقصد سرکاری معلومات کے حصول کیلئے عوام میں شعور اجاگر کرنا ہے۔ معلوماتی کوئز مقابلہ راکٹ آف ایکس نو انفارمیشن ایکٹ 2017 سے متعلق سوالات پر مشتمل ہے، ہر سوال کا جواب تیس سیکنڈ میں دینا لازمی ہے، پاکستان آر ٹی آئی کوئز مقابلے میں حصہ لینے کی آخری تاریخ 25 ستمبر مقرر کی گئی ہے جبکہ کوئز مقابلے والے فائنل کا اعلان 28 ستمبر کو کیا جائیگا۔

MEDIA COVERAGE

RADIO PAKISTAN Saturday, 8 March 2025, 10:53:56 pm

Shoaib Siddiqui emphasizes active citizen participation to improve governance
September 28, 2024



Chief Information Commissioner Shoaib Ahmed Siddiqui has said International Day for Universal Access to Information is observed to create awareness about rights of people in a society.

In an exclusive interview with Radio Pakistan's Correspondent Sajjad Parvez, he said this right enables citizens to file appeals for access to information regarding performance of institutions.

He said citizens' active participation can enhance governance and institutional performance while combating negative societal mindsets.

The Chief Information Commissioner emphasized the need to celebrate this day passionately to empower citizens and enhance Pakistan's global reputation.

Regarding the Right to Information Act of 2017, he acknowledged it is still developing and called for comprehensive support from the government, institutions, and political leaders in this regard.

INTERNATIONAL THE NEWS

'RTI strengthening citizens-state ties'

By Our Correspondent | September 29, 2024



Chief Information Commissioner Shoaib Ahmad Siddiqui is expressing his views regarding RTI Quiz seen in this image released on September 28, 2024. — RTI Website/File

Islamabad : Chief Information Commissioner Shoaib Ahmad Siddiqui has emphasized that the fundamental right to information, granted under the Article 19-A of Constitution of Pakistan, is strengthening the relationship between citizens and Government of Pakistan through promoting the culture of transparency, accountability, and citizen empowerment.

He made these remarks while announcing the winners of the Pakistan RTI Quiz Contest 2024, organized by the Pakistan Information Commission in collaboration with the Press Network of Pakistan, on the occasion of International Day for Universal Access to Information.

"Today, International Day for Universal Access to Information marks a global commitment to ensure that every person has the equal right to seek and share information," the Chief Information Commissioner stated in a video message to congratulate the quiz winners. "In addition, the global day provides an opportunity to review progress and efforts made by the Pakistan Information Commission in order to empower Pakistani citizens for accessing the information, being held by public authorities," he said, while lauding the Press Network of Pakistan for a successful collaboration in organizing a nationwide RTI Quiz Contest to raise public awareness, especially among university students, journalists and youngsters. According to him, informed citizens obviously are in a good position to make informed decisions in the best interest of Pakistan.

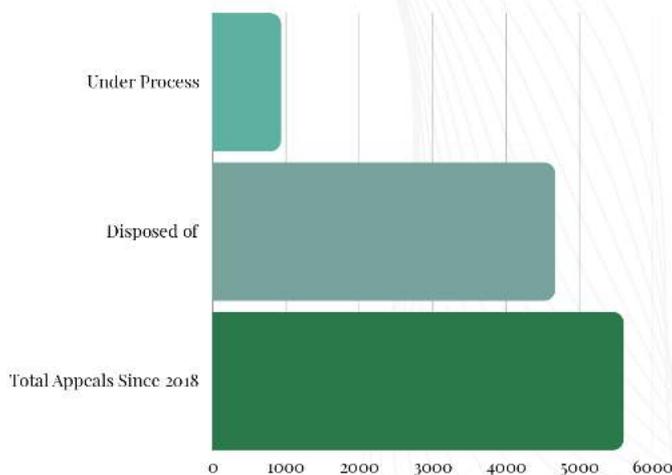
"Quiz contests have been recognized as an effective tool for learning, fostering community engagement, knowledge sharing and encouraging healthy competition throughout the globe," Sabahuddin Qazi, Chief Executive of the Press Network of Pakistan stated, emphasizing that: "The Right of Access to Information Act, 2017, is indeed a landmark achievement in our national journey towards transparency, prosperity and accountability."



PIC ORDERS SBP TO DISCLOSE LIST OF EMPLOYEES HAVING DUAL NATIONALITY IN 10 DAYS

States of Appeals

Since its establishment in 2018, the Pakistan Information Commission (PIC) has received 5,601 appeals under the Right of Access to Information Act, 2017. Of these, 83% (4,668 appeals) have been disposed of, while 17% (933 appeals) remain under process as of December 2024.



**Total Appeals
Since 2018**

5601

Disposed of.

4668

Under Process

933

From July to December 2024, PIC received 884 new appeals, disposing of 66% (579 appeals), while 34% (305 appeals) are under review.

Despite limited resources, the Commission remains committed to its mandate. Hearings are conducted three days a week—Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday—to ensure timely resolution.

PIC continues to strengthen the implementation of the Right of Access to Information Act, facilitating citizens in exercising their right to public information. The high disposal rate highlights its efficiency and commitment despite challenges.



**Total Appeals
July-Dec 2024**

884

**Disposed of.
July-Dec 2024**

579

Highlights in Photos



Chief Information Commissioner Shoab Ahmad Siddiqui and Information Commissioner Ijaz Hassan Awan presenting the Bi-Annual Report of the PIC to Speaker National Assembly, Ayaz Sadiq.



Chief Information Commissioner Shoab Ahmad Siddiqui presenting a prize to RTI Quiz winner. Ms. Urvah Hanif is also present on the occasion.



Group photo of Shoab Ahmad Siddiqui, Ijaz Hassan Awan, Mahboob Qadir Shah, & RTI activist Moonus Kayenat after an awareness session

Highlights in Photos



Chief Information Commissioner, Shoaib Ahmad Siddiqui along with Information Commissioner Ijaz Hassan Awan, presenting the Biannual Report to Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.



Group photo of Chief Information Commissioner Shoaib Ahmad Siddiqui, Information Commissioner Ijaz Hassan Awan, and others with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

Section 19(c): Ensuring Compliance & Access to Information

In accordance with Section 19(c) of the Right of Access to Information Act, 2017, the Pakistan Information Commission (PIC) presents this bi-annual report, outlining its activities and the progress made in implementing the Act across public bodies.

Pakistan Information Commission not only decides appeals but also ensures the implementation of each order issued by the Commission. To enforce compliance, the Commission imposed fines on officials of the Excise and Taxation Department and Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad, for failing to provide requested information as per the law.

Public bodies have also made strides in implementing the Right of Access to Information Act, with increased compliance in responding to information requests. However, challenges such as delays and incomplete responses persist, requiring continuous engagement and capacity-building initiatives.

A notable achievement during the reporting period was the revision of procedures by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) for citizens seeking information. Following PIC's intervention, MOFA removed unnecessary requirements such as affidavits, fees, and stamp papers, which were deemed contrary to the spirit of the Right of Access to Information Act and created obstacles for citizens.

Additionally, the Commission ensures transparency in its own operations through audited financial accounts, reflecting responsible resource management. This report, as mandated, is submitted to the Parliament to provide an overview of the Commission's efforts and the overall implementation of the Act across public institutions.

PIC remains committed to promoting the right of access to information and enhancing transparency in governance despite existing challenges.

Key Learnings & Recommendations

- Strengthen the legal framework for better compliance.
- Train staff for efficient case handling.
- Speed up case disposal to reduce delays.
- Increase outreach and public awareness.
- Encourage proactive disclosure by public bodies.
- Collaborate with stakeholders for better implementation.
- Use technology for case management and transparency.
- Regularly monitoring and evaluation of performance.
- Ensure independence and autonomy of the Commission.
- Enhance international cooperation for best practices.

Challenges

- Low public awareness about the right to information.
- Limited financial and human resources.
- Weak enforcement mechanisms.
- Balancing transparency with data protection.
- Need for improved digital infrastructure.

Despite these challenges, PIC remains committed to transparency, accountability, and strengthening citizens' right to information. The journey goes on with commitment and getting results.

Contact Us



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www.rti.gov.pk