

Pakistan Information Commission

Government of Pakistan

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In The Pakistan Information Commission, Islamabad

Appeal No E110-04/21

Mohsin Ali Raziq

(Appellant)

Vs.

Allama Iqbal Open University

Through its Public Information Officer

(Respondent)

ORDER

Date: July 28, 2021

Zahid Abdullah: Information Commissioner

A. The Appeal

1. The Appellant filed an appeal, dated April 29, 2021, to the Commission, stating that he submitted an information request to Registrar, Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad on March 09, 2021 under the Right of Access to Information Act 2017 but did not receive any response from the public body.
2. The information sought by the Appellant is as follows:

“Scan copies of Screening test result clearly mentioning the marks of top 11 candidates that were shortlisted for interview. Approved marking criteria and eligibility criteria for the above mention post duly approved by the competent authority Scan copies of top 11 candidates of pre-interview marks. Scan copies of top 11 candidates Aggregate Grand mark sheet or award list (clearly mentioning the Interview marks , and Pre-interview marks, along with basic qualification weightage marks , intermediate weightage marks , master weightage marks , experience weightage marks , Screening test marks (if) and interview weightage marks) Appointment order of the three elected ARDs and their profile (Job Application submitted to AIOU). It is further requested that kindly share the information via email mention below. Mohsin Ali Raziq /S/O Fazal Raziq (17101-9034382-7) Post Applied : Assistant Regional Director (KPK) Appeared in the test Appeared in the Interview”.

“I need Merit list for the Post Account Assistant BPS 14 which the interview was held in W.M Zaki Hall Academic Com-plex Islamabad.”

B. Proceedings

3. Through a notice dated May 28, 2021, sent to Ms. Bibi Yasmeen, Assistant Registrar (Establishment) / Public Information Officer, Allama Iqbal Open University, the Commission called upon the Respondent to submit reasons for not providing the requested information.

4. Another notice was issued to the Respondent on June 10, 2021.
5. The Respondent through a letter dated June 24, 2021 stated that “I am directed to forward herewith the following information as request by Mr. Mohsin Ali Raziq s/o Fazal Raziq with regard to recruitment of Assistant Regional Directors, three posts for KP:
 - (a) Approved marking criterial and eligibility criteria for the above mentioned posts duly approved by the competent authority.
 - (b) Final merit/recommendations of the board.

The other information requested by the complainant falls under the clause 7 (g) of the Right of Access to Information Act 2017”.

6. The response was shared with the Appellant on July 02, 2021 and submitted that complete information was not provided.

C. Discussion and Commission’s View on Relevant Issues

7. This commission holds that the Respondent has only shared the criterion and the position of the Appellant on the merit list.
8. This commission is of the view that both the letter and spirit of the Right of Access to Information Act 2017 dictates the disclosure of certified copies of Screening test result clearly mentioning the marks of top 11 candidates that were shortlisted for interview, approved marking criteria and eligibility criteria, certified information about the top 11 candidates of pre-interview marks, information about top 11 candidates Aggregate Grand mark sheet or award list (clearly mentioning the Interview marks , and Pre-interview marks, along with basic qualification weightage marks , intermediate weightage marks , master weightage marks , experience weightage marks , Screening test marks (if) and interview weightage marks), Appointment order of the three elected ARDs and their profile (Job Application submitted to AIOU) for the post of Post Account Assistant BPS 14 which the interview was held in W.M Zaki Hall Academic Com-plex Islamabad, as requested by the Appellant.
9. This commission maintains that educational degrees of short-listed/selected candidates for government posts, their CVs, marks obtained during the recruitment process, remarks of the members of the selection committee during the interview cannot be withheld on the grounds of privacy as it this information is critical to determine the level of transparency and fairness adopted in the recruitment process. Therefore, Section 7 (g) of the Right of Access to Information is not applicable in the instant appeal. The personal/private information means CNIC details, residential addresses, telephone numbers, bank accounts/financial details and health conditions.
10. This commission maintains that the disclosure of the requested information is not only in accordance with both the letter and the spirit of the right of Access to Information Act, 2017, but its disclosure will also help achieve the stated objectives of this Act which are as under:
 - Making government more accountable to citizens’;
 - Greater level of participation of citizens in the affairs of the government’;
 - ‘Reducing corruption and inefficiency’;
 - Promoting sound economic growth’; and
 - Promoting good governance and respect for human rights.
11. This commission is of the view that public participation, one of the stated objectives of this Act, through the exercise of the right to information, will not only help in improving

the performance of federal public bodies but will also bridge the trust-gap between citizens and their institutions.

D. Order

12. Appeal is allowed. Public Information Officer, Allama Iqbal Open University is directed to share with the Appellant information requested in para 2 of this Order, within 10 working days of the receipt of this Order, with intimation to this office.
13. Copies of this order be sent to Public Information Officer, Allama Iqbal Open University and the Appellant for information and necessary action.

Mohammad Azam

Chief Information Commissioner

Fawad Malik

Information Commissioner

Zahid Abdullah

Information Commissioner

Announced on:

July 28, 2021

This order consists of 3 (three) pages, each page has been read and signed