

**Pakistan Information Commission**  
**Government of Pakistan**

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**In the Pakistan Information Commission, Islamabad**  
**Appeal No 1117-06/21**

**Syed Ishteyaq Mustafa Bukhary**

**(Appellant)**

Vs.

**Capital Development Authority**

**(Respondent)**

**ORDER**

**Date:** February 02, 2022

**Zahid Abdullah:** Information Commissioner

1. The Appellant filed an appeal, dated June 07, 2021, to the Commission, stating that he submitted an information request to Public Information Officer, (PIO), Capital Development Authority, (CDA) on May 06, 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:
  1. *“Provide complete certified copies of Rules and procedure about Journalist and media workers plot quota in Islamabad.*
  2. *Provide complete list of Journalist and media workers, who got plot under their respective quota or under any other law or orders/ direction of higher authorities in different sectors of Islamabad since 1980 to till date.*
  3. *Provide detailed information about land provided to National Press Club (NPC) in sector F-6/1*
  4. *Provide documents and information about handing over the 3000 sq yards property to the Trust (National Press club) by the CDA through letter No. CDA/ PLW-LS.1 (17)/ F-6/08/407 dated 18-08-2008.*
  5. *Provide details/documents about the approval of this property and under which law handed over the land/property to NPC also provided the information/ document of competent authority who approved the plan.*
  6. *Provide information/ documents about financial, technical and development or any other kind of assistance provided to NPC from CDA*
  7. *Provide detailed information /documents about agreement between CDA and Trust (NPC)”.*

**B. Proceedings**

3. In response to the notices and hearings held at the commission, the Respondent, CDA shared information.
4. Through a letter dated September 01, 2021, the Appellant shared with the commission that he was *“satisfied with six points (Point No. 1,3,4,5,6 & 7) reply. Point No.2 is not*

satisfactory. The information related to Journalist and Media workers plot allotment quota was not provided year wise since 1980.

2- Provide complete list of Journalist and media workers, who got plot under their respective quota or under any other law or orders/ direction of higher authorities in different sectors of Islamabad since 1980 to till date”.

5. Through a letter dated September 10, 2021, the PIO intimated that the “above cited subject was forwarded to relevant quarters of the authority for provision of record/ information under provision of the subject Act. 2017 vide this office letter No.CDA/SCB/RAI-2017/2021, dated 18.05.2001 and dated 15.06.2021. Now the applicant has showed his un-satisfaction on responded by the office of CDA and requested to provide the requisite information as indicated in his application dated 01.09 2021 (copy enclosed)

4-Director EM - I(West) & (East), CDA are therefore requested to attend the hearing on the above date & time along with relevant record, as well provision of requisite information as indicated in his application dated 01.09.2021 (copy enclosed)”.

6. In the hearing held on September 23, 2021, Syed Ali Asghar, Counsel for CDA attended the hearing and sought one week to provide the remaining information.

### **C. Issues**

7. The instant Appeal has raised following question:  
What are implications for the officers whose assistance is sought by a PIO in responding to the information request filed under the Right of Access to Information Act, 2017, henceforth referred to as the Act, 2017?

### **D. Discussion and Commission’s View on Relevant Issues:**

8. The PIO, CDA sought assistance from Director EM - I(West) & Director (East).
9. While PIO, CDA provided the available information and for the remaining duly forwarded request for information to the Director EM - I(West) & Director (East) for their response under the Act, 2017.
10. The PIO, CDA fulfilled his legal obligation under the Act, 2017 whereas Director EM - I(West) & Director (East) failed to carry out their legal obligations.
11. In the instant Appeal, Rule 3 of the Right of Access to Information Rules 2019 is relevant which is as under:  
“3. Designated officer.— (1) A designated officer of a public body may seek assistance of any officer in order to collect, collate or retrieve the information being sought by an applicant.  
(2) If the delay is caused or any other complaint occurs as a result of non-cooperation, faulty or delayed response on the part of an officer whose assistance was sought by the designated officer, such other officer shall be deemed to be the designated officer after approval of the Secretary concerned for purpose of imposition of penalties under the Act”.
12. This commission holds that requested “list of Journalist and media workers, who got plot under their respective quota or under any other law or orders/ direction of higher

authorities in different sectors of Islamabad since 1980 to till date” is public information under the provisions of the Act, 2017.

**E. Order**

13. Appeal is allowed. Director EM - I(West) & Director (East), CDA are directed to provide the Appellant certified list of Journalist and media workers, who got plot under their respective quota or under any other law or orders/ direction of higher authorities in different sectors of Islamabad since 1980 to till date. This list be provided at the earliest but not later than 7 working days of the receipt of this Order, with intimation to this office.
14. Copies of this order be sent to PIO, Director EM - I(West) & Director (East), CDA and the Appellant for information and necessary action.

**Mohammad Azam**

Chief Information Commissioner

**Fawad Malik**

Information Commissioner

**Zahid Abdullah**

Information Commissioner

Announced on: February 02, 2022

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