



In the Pakistan Information Commission, Islamabad
Appeal No 1588-12/21

Dr Saeed Ahmed

(Appellant)

Vs.

Allama Iqbal Open University

(Respondent)

ORDER

Date: June 01, 2022

Zahid Abdullah: Information Commissioner

A. The Appeal

1. The Appellant filed an appeal, dated December 20, 2021 to the Commission, stating that he submitted an information request to the Allama Iqbal Open University 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:
"I asked the information on 20 December 2021 about Dr Irshad Current working as Dean Science in Allama Iqbal Open University. The information asked was.
 - i. *No of Publications of Dr Irshad Submitted in his Selection Board held on 2015.*
 - ii. *The Minutes of the Selection Board for the position of Professor Statistics.**But the concerned university office did not provide the requested information."*

B Proceedings

- 3 In response to the notices of the commission, the Respondent shared the requested information and submitted the following response to this commission on April 11, 2022:
"I am directed to forward herewith the following information as requested by Dr. Saeed Ahmed under the right of Access to Information Act 2017.

Sr. No	Requested Information	Remarks
1	No of Publications of Dr. Irshad Submitted in his Selection Board held on 2015.	Professor Dr. Irshad Ahmed Submitted 21 research article/publications in 2015 at the time of application
2	The minutes of the Selection Board for the position of Professor of Statistics.	Relevant portion of the minutes of Selection Board are excluded from the scope of RTI, as provided under clause 7(a) of the Act.

- 4 On April 14, 2022, the Appellant submitted his rejoinder which is as under:
"Allama Iqbal Open University has mixed up my appeal No. 1588-01/2022 with E-193/2-2021"

My request is to provide my right information (i) list of Publications of Dr. Irshad Dean Science and Minutes of his selection Board held on 2015. My this information has been asked clearly in my appeal no. 1588-01/2022”

5 The commission held another hearing on this Appeal on MAY 12, 2022 vide letter dated April 19, 2022. The Respondent submitted its response which is as under:

“I am directed to state the following regarding the revised request of Dr. Saeed ahmed dated 14.04.2022 received through your office under the Right of Access to Information Act 2017.

S, NO	Initial Request	Received Request	Remarks
i.	No. of Publication of Dr. Irshad submitted Board his Selection Board held on 2015	List of Publications of . Dr. Irshad Dean Sciences.	Initial Information as requested was provided. His current request is a revised/secondary information
ii	Minutes of the Selection Board held on 2015		Minutes of the Selection Board held on 2015 is attached.

6 On May 27, 2022, the Appellant submitted his response which is as under:

“With reference to Appeal No. 1588-02/2022 and your letter dated 13/05/2022. I am not satisfied by the Information provided by the University because on the very first day of my appeal 1588 I requested for two kind of information No. of Publications of Dr. Irshad submitted in his Selection Board held on 2015 the minutes of the Selection Board for the position of Professor Statistics.

But the university did not provide the list and the number of publications of Dr. Irshad which is the essential part of minutes of selection board. The information shared is incomplete, therefore, it is requested that the Allama Iqbal Open University must provide complete minutes of the selection board along with the number of publications of Dr. Irshad mentioned”.

C Issues:

7 The instant Appeal has brought to the fore following questions for the consideration of this commission:

(a) Can an Appellant expand the scope of ‘information request’ during the proceedings under the provisions of the Right of Access to Information Act, 2017, henceforth referred to as “the Act, 2017”?

(b) Has the requested information been provided to the Appellant?

D Discussion and commission’s views on relevant issues:

8 The record available on the file suggests that the Appellant has sought information about ‘number’ of publications of Dr Irshad which was duly provided by the Respondent on the intervention of this commission. The Appellant later expanded his original ‘request for information’ and sought access to the list of publications of Dr Irshad.

9 There is no provision in the Right of Access to Information Act, 2017 which allows an Appellant to expand the scope of ‘request for information’. However, the Act, 2017 does not bar the Appellant to file fresh ‘request for information’ for ‘list’ of publications.

10 This commission has also examined the minutes of the meetings provided by the Respondent, AIOU and concludes that the minutes as requested by the Appellant have been provided to the Appellant to the satisfaction of this commission.

E Order

11 The Appeal is disposed of as the requested information has been provided to the Appellant.

12 Copies of this Order be sent to the Respondent and the Appellant for information.

Mohammad Azam

Chief Information Commissioner

Fawad Malik

Information Commissioner

Zahid Abdullah

Information Commissioner

Announced on: June 01, 2022

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