

IN THE PAKISTAN INFORMATION COMMISSION ISLAMABAD

APPEAL NO. 1429-11/2021

Syed Shahid Raza

Vs

Wafaqi Urdu University, Karachi

Fawad Malik: Information Commissioner

A. APPEAL

1. Mr. Syed Shahid Raza filed an application under the Right of Access to the Information Act, 2017. Through the application dated 02-07-2021 addressed to the acting Registrar, Wafaqi Urdu University, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Karachi, he has sought the certified copies of question papers of all the subjects of Social Sciences pertaining to the tests held for the appointment of lecturers.
2. Feeling aggrieved for the non-provision of information he filed the appeal before the Pakistan Commission on Access to Information, Islamabad.
3. While dealing with the matters related to information and record sought by the citizens under the Act of 2017, the public bodies are under obligation to respond the applications as mandated in the Act. In the case in hand the respondent has not acknowledged the application, information is not provided to the applicant in the stipulated time frame and the notices of the Commission are ignored. The reply is not submitted and the hearing before the Commission was not represented by the public body. It is presumed that the respondent public body is willfully avoiding the proceedings before the Commission and that the public body has nothing in the sleeves to submit in the defence. In such like circumstances the Commission is left with no option but to decide the appeal ex parte after going through the file in light of the Act.
4. The question papers for examinations held by the organization are neither excluded nor exempted from disclosure under the Act.

5. The appeal is allowed. The Registrar, Wafaqi Urdu University, Karachi is directed to provide the appellant the certified copies of question papers of all the subjects of Social Sciences pertaining to the tests held for the appointment of lecturers, forthwith but in any case not later than seven days of the receipt of this order.

Mohammad Azam
Chief Information Commissioner

Fawad Malik
Information Commissioner

Zahid Abdullah
Information Commissioner

Announced on 30.06.2022

Certified that this order consists of 02 pages, each page has been read and signed