

**Pakistan Information Commission  
Government of Pakistan**

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  @PkInfoComm



**In the Pakistan Information Commission, Islamabad**

**Appeal No 1879-04/22**

**Nadeem Umer**

**(Appellant)**

**Vs.**

**Ministry of Finance**

**(Respondent)**

**ORDER**

Date: August 16, 2022

Zahid Abdullah: Information Commissioner

**A. The Appeal**

1. The Appellant filed an appeal, dated April 19, 2022 to the Commission, stating that he submitted an information request to the Secretary, Ministry of Finance on April 01, 2022 under the Right of Access to Information Act 2017 but did not receive the requested information from the public body.

2. The information sought by the Appellant is as follows:

*“Please provide relevant rules / policy/ documents / regulation/ which allows to give advance increments by any government department/ autonomous bodies or ministries. ( if any)*

*If any department offers “advance increments will be given to the selected candidates on the basis of higher qualifications / relevant experience “either they can increments to any candidate who have higher qualification / relevant experience.*

*Is there any rule / policy document which bar the department from giving advance increments in the salaries of newly appointed employees, if so, please provide copy of policy documents/ rules?”.*

**B. Proceedings**

3. The record on the file suggests that the Respondent submitted its response on the intervention of this commission on April 18, 2022 and its text is as under:

*“Reference your application dated 1st April, 2022 on the above subject and to state that at present no scheme for the grant of advance increments on the basis of qualifications/ experience is operative for in service Federal Government Employees.”*

4. The Appellant submitted his response on May 28, 2022 and its text is as under:

i. *“This is reference to my appeal on 1879-04-21*

- ii. *The response of the public body is generic. The public body may please be directed to provide a para-wise reply to my information request to make it clear.*”

**C. Issues**

5. The instant appeal has brought to the fore the following issue:  
Has the Respondent provided specific information to the Appellant, or, provided a generic answer while 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 views on relevant issues:**

6. The Appellant has sought access to specific rules / policy/ documents / regulation governing advance increments given to employees.
7. Instead of providing specifically requested rules / policy/ documents / regulations pertaining to the issue of advanced increments given to federal employees, the Respondent submitted that “at present no scheme for the grant of advance increments on the basis of qualifications/ experience is operative for in service Federal Government Employees”.
8. This commission holds that the response of the Respondent is generic in nature and does not address the information request.
9. This commission also maintains that the requested rules / policy/ documents / regulations pertaining to the advanced increments of federal public employees are public documents. The Respondent is not only obligated to provide these documents to the Appellant on request but also legally bound to proactively publish these documents on its web site as a legal requirement under Section 5 of the Act, 2017.

**E. Order**

10. The Appeal is allowed. The Respondent is directed to provide the Appellant information requested in para 2 of this Order at the earliest but not later than 7 working days of the receipt of this Order, with intimation to this office.
11. The Respondent is directed to put name, designation, telephone number and E-mail of the PIO at top right corner of the home page of its web site and submit compliance report to this effect to this commission within 10 working days of the receipt of this Order.
12. The Respondent is directed to take immediate steps to proactively share through the web site all categories of information mentioned in Section 5 of the Right of Access to Information Act 2017 and submit the compliance report to the commission in the Template for the Compliance Report-Proactive Disclosure of Information under Section 5 of the Right of Access to Information Act 2017’. This template is available under ‘Information Desk’ category at the web site of the commission [www.rti.gov.pk](http://www.rti.gov.pk). The compliance report be submitted to this commission within 10 working days of the receipt of this Order.
13. The Respondent is directed to ensure accessibility of the information proactively published on its web site under Section 5 of the Right of Access to Information Act 2017 for all citizens, including the blind, low-vision, physically disabled, speech and hearing impaired and people with other disabilities and submit compliance report to this effect using ‘Web accessibility checklist’. This checklist is available under ‘Information Desk’ category at the web site of the commission [www.rti.gov.pk](http://www.rti.gov.pk). The compliance report be

submitted to this commission at the earliest but not later than 10 working days of the receipt of this Order.

- 14 Copies of this order be sent to the Respondent and the Appellant for information and necessary action.

**Mohammad Azam**

Chief Information Commissioner

**Fawad Malik**

Information Commissioner

**Zahid Abdullah**

Information Commissioner

Announced on: August 16, 2022

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