

**Pakistan Information Commission  
Government of Pakistan**

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**In the Pakistan Information Commission, Islamabad**

**Appeal No 1404-10/21**

**Sharafat Ali Zia**

**(Appellant)**

Vs.

**Finance Division**

**(Respondent)**

**Order**

**Date:** February 24, 2022

**Mohammad Azam:** Chief Information Commissioner

**A. The Appeal**

1. The Appellant filed an appeal, date October 18, 2021, before the Commission, stating that he Submitted an information request to the Secretary, Finance Division on September 19, 2021 under the Right of Access to Information Act 2017. The Respondent public body has not responded to the information request as required under section 13 of the Right of Access to Information Act, 2017. Therefore, the appellant has filed his appeal to the Commission.
2. The information sought by the Appellant is as under:
  - (i) “ Detailed facts/data including the rationale/ justification that were made part of the ‘proposal of 10% increase in the pension of civil pensioners of the Federal Government in the budget proposals for Budget of FY 2021-22 placed by Finance Division before the Cabinet for consideration/ approval prior to Finance Minister’s budget speech in the National Assembly; and
  - (ii) Detailed facts/ data including the rationale/ justifications that were made part of the proposals of revising the amount of orderly allowance from Rs. 14,000/- to Rs. 17,500/- p.m in the budget proposals for Budget of FY 2021-22 placed by Finance Division before the Cabinet for consideration/ approval prior to Finance Minister’s budget speech in the National Assembly.”

**B. Proceedings**

3. This commission through a notice dated October 25, 2021 sent to the Secretary, Finance Division called upon the Respondent to submit reasons for not providing the requested information.
4. The Appeal was fixed for hearing on December 28, 2021 and both parties were informed through notices sent on December 14, 2021.

5. The appellant through an email December 22, 2021 informed this Commission that the public body has shared response with him but he is not satisfied with that. Content of appellant's email is as under:

*“The Honorable PIC has fixed the said appeal for regular hearing on 28<sup>th</sup> December, 2021 and issued Hearing Summon to the Finance Division on 14-12-2021 with a copy to the applicant.*

3. *In the meantime however, the Finance Divisor has forwarded, through their letter No. F-10(1)Coord-1/2021, dated 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2021 (Copy attached) addressed to the applicant with a CC: to PIC, an extract from the Finance Minister's Budget Speech pertaining to Relief Measures announced by him in the National Assembly and photocopies of Two Office Memoranda dated 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2021 issued by them subsequently in both the cases the indicated in my Request dated 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2021 (Copy already provided with my Appeal).*

4. *It is to state the information contained the said papers received from the Finance Davison being generalized nature is already available on thier website and that the applicant had not made request for the generalized information contained in photocopies of those documents. The applicant had requested the specific information relating to increases made in the Pension of civil pensioners and Orderly Allowances as re-iterated below :-*

- (i) *Detailed facts/data including the rationale/ justification that were made part of the proposal of 10% increase in the pension of civil pensioners of the Federal Government in the budget proposals for Budget of FY 2021-22 placed by Finance Division before the Cabinet for consideration/ approval prior to Finance Minister's budget speech in the National Assembly; and*
- (ii) *Detailed data/data including the rationale/ justification that were made part of the proposal of revising the amount of orderly allowance from Rs. 14,000/- to Rs. 17,500/- p.m in the budget proposals for Budget of FY 2021-22 placed by Finance Division before the Cabinet for consideration/ approval prior to Finance Minister's Budget speech in the National Assembly.*

5. *Therefore, it is very humbly requested that while processing/ adjudicating the subject appeal the applicant's concern expressed above may kindly kept in view.”*
6. The appeal was fixed for hearing on January 11, 2022, and both parties were informed through notices sent on December 29, 2021.
7. Mr. Manzoor Ahmed, Deputy Secretary, Finance Division attended the hearing held on January 11, 2022 and submitted response before the Commission. Response submitted by the public body was shared with the Appellant on January 11, 2022.
8. The Appellant through an email dated January 16, 2022 submitted rejoinder to the response of the public body, which is as under:  
*“Kindly refer to Pakistan Information Commission's letter dated 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 forwarding therewith a copy of Finance Division's U.O. Note dated 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2021 for comments/ response by the Appellant.*
2. Kind attention is drawn to my last E-mail dated 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2021 (copy appended below this E-Mail) which is self-explanatory.
3. Since despite exchange of protracted correspondence the specific information requested by the Applicant is not forthcoming from the respondent public body i.e. Finance

Division it is requested that the Appeal under reference may please be considered and decided once for all, under information to the Appellant.”

9. Rejoinder filed by the appellant was shared with the Respondent on January 19, 2022 with the directions to respond to the queries of the Appellant within 10 working days.
10. The Respondent through a letter vide No. 10(1)Coord-I/2021 dated February 09, 2022 submitted response to the queries of the appellant which is as under:  
“I am directed to refer to the Pakistan Information Commission’s letter bearing Appeal # 1404-10/21 dated 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 on the subject cited above and to enclose herewith the updated requisite information in respect of Finance Division, as desired.”

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

12. This commission has to decide,
  1. Whether the public body has provided complete and relevant information to the appellant?
13. After reading the contents of the request, and evaluating the reply submitted by the asking respondent in the light of the provision of the Act. This commission holds that in the instant appeal the public body has addressed all the questions asked by the appellant in his information requested.
14. This commission is of the view that the public body has provided all the requested information to the Appellant on February 09, 2022 with intimation to this Commission.

### **D. Order**

15. The appeal is dismissed with no further directions to the public body.
16. Copies of this order be sent to the Secretary, Finance Division and the Appellant for information and necessary action.

**Mohammad Azam**

Chief Information Commissioner

**Fawad Malik**

Information Commissioner

**Zahid Abdullah**

Information Commissioner

Announced on: February 24, 2022

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