



In the Pakistan Information Commission, Islamabad
Appeal No 1849-04/22

Dr. Muhammad Shiraz

(Appellant)

Vs.

Allama Iqbal Open University

(Respondent)

ORDER

Date: October 04, 2022

Zahid Abdullah: Information Commissioner

A. The Appeal

1. The Appellant filed an appeal, dated March 31, 2022 to the Commission, stating that he submitted an information request to the Public Information Officer/ Registrar, Allama Iqbal Open University on March 14 2022 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 hope you are enjoying your life with full zeal and deal. It is requested that for urther references and in accordance with the Right to Information Act, granted to every citizen Pakistan Act No. XXXMT 2017. You are requested to provide the undersigned me following documents

- i. The SOPs (mentioning details of the parameters/metrics along with marks weightage) as per the statutes of the University for shortlisting candidates for the position of Associate Professor/Professor as advertised in December 2019 with last date of receipt of application as 17-January-2020.*
- ii. . Attested copy of the details of marks assigned out of 50 marks (internal scrutiny marks) to each candidate for the position of Associate Professor in Computer Science as concluded by shortlisting committee.*
- iii. Attested copy of the details of marks assigned by each external expert out of 30 marks to each eligible candidate for the position of Associate Professor in Computer Science*
- iv. Attested copy of the details of marks assigned by each member of the Selection Board to each candidate appeared for interview for the position of Associate Professor in Computer Science*
- v. Attested copy of the comments/remarks of each member of the selection board for selecting and rejecting the candidates appeared for the interview for the position of Associate Professor in Computer Science.*

As the mentioned documents are explicitly mentioned and none of the documents could be left (un-provided).

This RTI is filed keeping in view the best Public Interest under Transparency Act XXXMT 2017.

Your kind acknowledgement of this RTI and further provision in this regards will be appreciated. The said documents may reach the undersigned within the scribed period of time as per Act.

B. Proceedings

3. The record on the file suggests that the Respondent submitted its response on the intervention of this commission on August 05, 2022 and its text is as under:

<i>S. no</i>	<i>Information Requested</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
1	<i>The SOPs (mentioning details of the parameters/metrics along with marks weightage) as per the statutes of the University for shortlisting candidates for the position of Associate Professor/Professor as advertised in December 2019 with last date of receipt of application as 17-January-2020.</i>	<i>Sop's as requested is attached (flag-A).</i>
2	<i>Attested copy of the details of marks assigned out of 50 marks (internal scrutiny marks) to each candidate for the position of Associate Professor in Computer Science as concluded by shortlisting committee.</i>	<i>Consolidated merit and recommendation proforma duly signed by the members of Selection Board containing detail Selection scrutiny marks, detail of marks assigned by external evaluators, and marks assigned to each candidate by Selection Board are attached (flag-B).</i>
3	<i>Attested copy of the details of marks assigned by each external expert out of 30 marks to each eligible candidate for the position of Associate Professor in Computer Science</i>	<i>As above</i>
4	<i>Attested copy of the details of marks assigned by each member of the Selection Board to each candidate appeared for interview for the position of Associate Professor in Computer Science</i>	<i>As above</i>
5	<i>v. Attested copy of the comments/remarks of each member of the selection board for selecting and rejecting the candidates appeared for the interview for the position of Associate Professor in Computer Science.</i>	<i>Flag -C</i>

4. The Appellant submitted its response on August 26, 2022 and its text is as under

"I have received documents in response to Appeal 1849-04/2022 from AIOU Islamabad. The following information is not provided as per request made.:

- 1. "Flag-B does not provide details of the requested information It had been requested to provide details of internal scrutiny marks assigned to each eligible candidate appeared for the interview. However, in response consolidated merit and recommendation proforma is provided.*
- 2. It had been requested to provide attested copy of the details of marks assigned by each member of the Selection Board to Each candidate appeared for interview for the position of Associate Professor in Computer Science. However, consolidated marks of the interview are provided in the response to the request made."*

C. Issues

5. The instant appeal has brought to the fore the following issue:

Can marks assigned by each member of the Selection Board to Each candidate, appeared for interview for the position of Associate Professor in Computer Science be provided to the Appellant under the provisions of the Right of Access to Information Act, 2017, henceforth referred to as “the 2017 Act.

D. Discussion and commission’s views on relevant issues:

6. This commission holds that the access to the requested information in the instant Appeal about the recruitments in Allama Iqbal Open University is a matter of public importance and its disclosure is warranted under the provisions of the Act, 2017.
7. This commission issued a detailed Order in Appeal No. 942-03/21, Abdullah Rashed Waraich Vs. Pakistan Housing Authority Foundation which was upheld by the Honourable Islamabad High Court. In this Order, the commission held that information such as regional quota roster maintained by a public body, consolidated result of written test of the posts, attendance sheet of written tests, online applications submitted by candidates who were shortlisted for interview, educational certificates/degrees of the candidates who were shortlisted for interview, answer sheets of all candidates who were called for interview, attendance sheet of interviews, evaluation Proforma containing detail of academic records, marks obtained in written as well as in interviews by the candidates shortlisted for interview, duly signed by Departmental Selection Committee, recommendations of the Departmental Selection Committee regarding selection of candidates is a matter of public importance.
8. This commission holds that the disclosure of marks assigned by each member of the Selection Board to Each candidate, appeared for interview for the position of Associate Professor would shed light on the level of transparency adopted in the entire recruitment process and hence help achieve stated objectives of the Act enunciated in its Preamble which are as under:
 - a) Making government more accountable to citizens’;
 - b) Greater level of participation of citizens in the affairs of the government’;
 - c) ‘Reducing corruption and inefficiency’;
 - d) Promoting sound economic growth’; and
 - e) Promoting good governance and respect for human rights.
9. This Commission has observed that information of public importance mentioned in Section 5 of the Act is not being published through the web site of federal public bodies. In fact, the Web sites of federal public bodies contain generic information and not specific information as required under Section 5 of the Act. This is despite the fact that Principal Officer of each public body was required to ensure proactive disclosure of information through web site within 6 months of the commencement of the Right of Access to Information Act, 2017.

E. Order

10. Appeal is allowed. The Respondent is directed to provide the missing information such as information about marks assigned by each member of the Selection Board to Each candidate, appeared for interview for the position of Associate Professor to the Appellant, as requested by him 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 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. The compliance report be submitted to this commission within 10 working days of the receipt of this Order.

12. 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. The compliance report be submitted to this commission at the earliest but not later than 10 working days of the receipt of this Order.
13. Copies of this order be sent to The Respondent and the Appellant for information and necessary action.

Mohammad Azam

Chief Information Commissioner

Zahid Abdullah

Information Commissioner

Announced on: October 04, 2022

This order consists of 4 (four) pages, each page has been read and signed.