



PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PUNJAB



ANNUAL REPORT UNDER THE PUNJAB TRANSPARENCY AND RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT 2013 (Act XXV of 2013)

July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018

(August 2018)

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	5
A) PROACTIVE DISCLOSURE	5
B) DESIGNATION OF PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICERS	6
C) PUBLIC AWARENESS.....	6
D) TRAINING OF PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICERS	6
E) MAINTENANCE AND INDEXATION OF INFORMATION	6
F) DISPOSAL OF APPLICATIONS	7
G) CHALLENGES FACED BY PIOs	8
(H) SUGGESTIONS FROM PIOs.....	9
APPENDIX	11

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Introduction

The Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Ordinance 2013 was promulgated w.e.f 4th October 2013 to provide for transparency and freedom of information to ensure that citizens have improved access to public information; to make the Government more accountable to citizens; to enforce the fundamental right of access to information in all matters of public importance and to provide for ancillary matters.

The law was promulgated owing to an old demand of different sections of the society, NGOs and the courts of law; above all, due to the following Article of the Constitution (inserted through 18th Amendment in the year 2010):

"19A. Right to information.— Every citizen shall have the right to have access to information in all matters of public importance subject to regulation and reasonable restrictions imposed by law."

This law was considered so important that it was initiated through an ordinance. This law provides certain actions to be taken by the public bodies including departments of the Government. It may be mentioned that the definition of public body given at section 2(h) (v) includes Provincial Assembly of the Punjab. This ordinance was ultimately laid in the Assembly and was passed by the Assembly as "The Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013 (XXV of 2013)" on 12 December 2013, assented to by the Governor of the Punjab on 14 December 2013 and was published in the Punjab Gazette (Extraordinary) on 16 December 2013 at pages 1801-08 (henceforth cited as the RTI Act 2013).

As per Section 9 of the RTI Act, a public body is bound to submit its annual report and post it at its website. Hence this report has been compiled.

In compliance with the provisions of the RTI Act 2013, the annual report covers the following areas:

A) Proactive Disclosure

The Provincial Assembly of the Punjab took immediate action under section 4 of the RTI Act 2013 and proactively disclosed all important information at its website, www.pap.gov.pk.com. The information regarding Public Information Officers (PIOs) has also been displayed at the notice board at the entrance of the Punjab Assembly building.

B) Designation of Public Information Officers

The Provincial Assembly of the Punjab took immediate action as per provision of the said law and designated two public information officers for facilitating the general public for provision of requisite information. The details of the Public Information Officers are as under:

S/N	Name & Designation of PIOs	Address	Phone/Email
1.	Ms Abeeda Haroon Senior Research Officer	Room No 211 Provincial Assembly of the Punjab, Shahrah e Quaid e Azam Lahore	042-99200356 abeedaharoon@yahoo.com
2.	Mr Haroon Ahmad Khan Senior Translator	Room No 128 Provincial Assembly of the Punjab, Shahrah e Quaid e Azam Lahore	042-99202428 haroon_utopian@yahoo.com

C) Public Awareness

The Assembly Secretariat has taken concrete steps for awareness of the general public regarding the provisions of the said Act. A dedicated link has been created at the official website of the Assembly namely 'RTI' which contains the procedure of applications, review appeals and the details of the Public Information Officers.

D) Training of Public Information Officer

The Public Information Officer was given training as per following details:

Sr No	Name & Designation of PIOs	Training Received On	Training Given By
1.	Mr Haroon Ahmad Khan Senior Translator	12 April 2018	PILDAT

E) Maintenance and Indexation of Information

The information available with the Assembly Secretariat has been computerized and indexed and is available at the website of the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab. After the passage of RTI Act, the Punjab Assembly became the first legislature to begin the practice of uploading the detailed attendance of MPAs on its official website. This was a significant step towards greater transparency and public openness. The Assembly is also commended by various segments of the society for sharing video and audio recordings as well as the details of Standing Committees on its website. The Punjab Assembly uploads statistical information of business immediately after the

conclusion of each sitting. The Punjab Assembly also is the only Provincial Assembly to publish the reports of the Committees on its website. The Punjab Assembly is the first legislature to have a live telecast on its website during each sitting, and stands apart for actually having an archive of the recordings.

F) Disposal of Applications

The detail of the requests for information received by the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab through emails, and through applications during the year is at **Appendix**.

Through E-mails

The Assembly Secretariat received five emails up to 30 June 2018 whereby information was sought and all requisite information was provided within shortest possible time. No information was denied or kept pending.

Through Applications

Summary Of Applications Received (District Wise)

S/N	Category	District/Area	Number	Comments Or Explanation Where Needed
1	Request	Lahore	2	Information provided
2	Request	Islamabad	7	Information provided
3	Request	Okara	1	Information provided
4	Request	Faisalabad	1	Information provided
5	Request	Pakpattan	1	Information provided
Total			12	

Summary Of Applications Received

S/N	Category	Number	Comments Or Explanation Where Needed
Applications For Access To Information			
1.	Total applications received (up to 30 June 2018)	12	Information provided
2.	Total applications decided by relevant officer (up to 30 June 2018)	12	
3.	Total applications accepted where requested information was provided (up to 30 June 2018)	11	One applicant did not deposit the money and did not contact for information again
4.	Total applications rejected (up to 30 June 2018)	NIL	
5.	Applications pending decision (on 30 June 2018)	Nil	

Applications For Internal Review			
6.	Total applications received by head of the public body for internal review u/s 12 of the Act (up to 30 June 2018)	Nil	
7.	Total applications received for internal review which were decided (up to 30 June 2018)	Nil	
8.	Total applications for internal review where requested information was provided (up to 30 June 2018)	Nil	
9.	Total applications for internal review where access to information was denied (up to 30 June 2018)	Nil	
10.	Number of instances where the internal review process resulted in disciplinary proceedings against officer delaying or wrongly denying access to information (up to 30 June 2018)	Nil	
11.	Applications for internal review pending decision (on 30 June 2018)	Nil	

G) Challenges faced by PIOs

The Assembly Secretariat did not face any difficulty in the implementation of the Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013. All the relevant provisions of the Act were implemented in letter and spirit. However, the Public Information Officers showed the following concerns:

- 1) The Public Information Officers perform duties as such in addition to their own duties and are held responsible for any delay, fake information or negligence, etc. It has been provided in the law that they would be liable to fine up to two days salary for each day of delay or to pay fine which may extend to 50,000/- rupees. The PIOs are of the view that often the information is not within the access of the Public Information Officers and they have to get the information from the concerned quarters and the same sometimes comprises hundreds of pages and it is not possible for them to verify its authenticity.
- 2) Sometimes the applicants ask for information that comprises thousands of pages and it needs a lot of time to gather the information and worst part of it is that the applicants sometimes don't receive the information when they are asked to deposit the amount in the treasury. It makes the whole exercise of the officials of the public body futile and useless.

(H) Suggestions from PIOs

The PIOs have presented the following suggestions for the efficient disposal of requests for information in the interest of justice:

- a) The Public Information Officers may be paid remuneration as they perform duties in addition to their own duties.
- b) There should be penalty for the applicants also in case they don't get the requisite information; the Act may be amended accordingly.
- c) The applicant has been directed in the Schedule of Costs to pay cash, cheque or bank draft to the Public information Officer who shall deposit the money in the relevant head in the treasury. It is contented that seeking information is interest of the applicant; so he himself should deposit money in the treasury and furnish its copy to the Public Information Officer; giving this additional responsibility to the PIOs may be reviewed.
- d) The Public information Officer has been held responsible for providing fake information whereas the PIO plays the role of a post office between the applicant and the public body who provides the information. The officer/official who provides information should be held responsible and not the PIO if the same is found fake, incorrect or misleading.

(MUHAMMAD KHAN BHATTI)

Secretary

Provincial Assembly of the Punjab

APPENDIX

**STATEMENT OF THE APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AND DISPOSED OF UNDER THE
PUNJAB TRANSPARENCY AND RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT 2013 (XXV OF 2013)
DURING 1st July 2017 TO 30 JUNE 2018**

S/N	Applicant detail (Name & Address)	Ref/Letter No. with date	Subject/Information Sought	Action taken	No of copies with cost	Remarks
1.	Mr Muhammad Hasan Raza House No 148 Street No 3 Aziz Yaqoob Town Okara City 03017344010	8.08.2017	Information request under the Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013 Total expenditure on medical treatment of MPAs	Information provided on 22.08.2017		
2.	Mr Murtaza Hashim Murtazahashim.hcc@gmail.com	11.08.2017	Information about the post of Assistant Secretary PAP	Information provided through email		
3.	Mr Waseem A Saif Deputy Secretary Law and Parliamentary Affairs Department Lahore	SO (ADMN-i) 5- 3/2017/6223 Dated 15 September 2017 (Eight Reminders too)	Provision of information under the Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013	Reply given on 12 October 2017		
4.	Mr Faisal Badar Muneer 601, 6 th floor Abu Dhabi Towers f-11 Markaz Islamabad	25.09.2017	Information about agenda and minutes of standing committees	Information provided on 12.10.2017	283 copies Rs 566/-	Total 7 letters
5.	Mr Usman Mashhadi 48/A Poonch House Colony Multanm Road Lahore	05.10.2017	Provision of job description and service rules of Data Entry Operators of the Provincial Assembly of the PUNJAB ACCORDING TO the Punjab	Information provided on 25.10.2017		Two applicati ons

S/N	Applicant detail (Name & Address)	Ref/Letter No. with date	Subject/Information Sought	Action taken	No of copies with cost	Remarks
			Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013			
6.	Mr Raza Zaidi Email		Minutes of Meeting of Standing Committee on Transport 12 October 2009	Information provided on 02.11.2017		
7.	Mr Murtaza Hashim MurtazaHashim.HCC@gmail.com House No 104, Circular Road Near Mian Jee Flex Printing Press Pakpattan	18.11.2017	Information Required under 19-A of Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan & Punjab Transparency and RTI Act 2013..... Information about the sanctioned post in Assembly, Total vacant posts, Service rules, Budget estimates etc	Information provided on 29.11.2017		
8.	Mr Tahir Hussain Building No 1 Street 5 (Off Jasmine Road) G 7/2 Islamabad Contact 0333-5023149	15.01.2018	Sitting wise attendance of Members in the meetings of Standing Committees held between June 1, 2013 and December 31, 2017	Information provided on 18.1.2018	Rs 1040/- No of copies 520 pages	
9.	Syed Raza Ali Shah 601, 6 th Floor, Block B, Abu Dhabi Towers, F-11 Markaz Islamabad	16.1.2018	Information Request the Punjab Transparency and RT I Act 2013 About foreign visits of Assembly officials and MPAs	Information provided on 1.2.2018		
10.	Saki.comsian@gmail.com	29.1.2018	Salaries of MPAs	Information provided on 1.2.2018		
11.	Syed Raza Ali	20.2.2018	Information Request the Punjab	23.2.2018		

S/N	Applicant detail (Name & Address)	Ref/Letter No. with date	Subject/Information Sought	Action taken	No of copies with cost	Remarks
	Sy.razaali412@gmail.com		Transparency and RT I Act 2013			
12.	Mr Usman Khan House No 13 St No 2-B Ghorri Town Phase – II Khana Dak Islamabad 0302-8110571	21.2.2018	Sitting wise attendance of Members from 1 st Session to 11 th Session	Information not provided as he did not deposit money.	Asked to deposit 400 Rupees for 200 pages of Information	He did not deposit the money
13.	Mr Jawaid Ali Manwa Building No 1 Street No 5 Off Jasmine Road G 7/2 Islamabad	15.3.2018	Session wise expenses of assembly Session from June 2013 till todote	Information provided on 3.4.2018		
14.	Mr Shehzad Anwer Building No 1 Street No 5 G 7/2 Islamabad	12.4.2018	Salary and allowances of Speaker Deputy Speaker Chief Minister Leader of Opposition and all other members from 2013 till date	Information provided on 4.5.2018		
15.	Shehzadanwer7@gmail.com	18.4.2018	Total expenses incurred on 34 th session and salary and allowances of Speaker Deputy Speaker Chief Minister Leader of Opposition and all other members from 2013 till date	Information provided on 4.5.2018		
16.	Mr Jawaid Ali Manwa Building No 1 Street No 5 Off Jasmine Road G 7/2 Islamabad	23.4.2018	Information Request about resolutions under rule 126 (1) (2) and responses of concerned departments	Information provided on	166 rupees for 83 copies	

S/N	Applicant detail (Name & Address)	Ref/Letter No. with date	Subject/Information Sought	Action taken	No of copies with cost	Remarks
17.	Khawar Randhawa Reporter Express Plot No 49 Near Hockey Stadium and Saleemi CNG Station Madina Town Faisalabad	3.5.2018	Information Request Under RTI Act 2013	Information provided on 1.6.2018	Rs 2000/- for 1000 copies	