



PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PUNJAB



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

July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016

(August 2016)

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

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 Officers

The Public Information Officers were given trainings as per following details:

Sr No	Name & Designation of PIOs	Training Received	Training Given By
1.	Ms Abeeda Haroon Senior Research Officer	29 th March 2016	CPDI
2.	Mr Haroon Ahmad Khan Senior Translator	-do-	-do-

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 four emails up to 30 June 2016 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	Islamabad	18	Information provided
2	Request	Lahore	16	Information provided
3	Request	Karachi	1	Information provided
4	Request	Rawalpindi	1	Information provided
5	Request	Faisalabad	1	Information provided
6	Request	Multan	1	Information provided
7	Request	Okara	16	Information provided
Total			54	

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 2016)	54	
2.	Total applications decided by relevant officer (up to 30 June 2016)	54	
3.	Total applications accepted where requested information was provided (up to 30 June 2016)	54	
4.	Total applications rejected (up to 30 June 2016)	Nil	
5.	Applications pending decision (on 30 June 2016)	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 2016)	Nil	
7.	Total applications received for internal review which were decided (up to 30 June 2016)	Nil	
8.	Total applications for internal review where requested information was provided (up to 30 June 2016)	Nil	
9.	Total applications for internal review where access to information was denied (up to 30 June 2016)	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 2016)	Nil	
11.	Applications for internal review pending decision (on 30 June 2016)	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.

(RAI MUMTAZ HUSSAIN BABAR)
Senior Secretary
Provincial Assembly of the Punjab

APPENDIX

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 2015 TO 30 JUNE 2016**

S/N	Applicant detail (Name & Address)	Ref/Letter No. with date	Subject/Information Sought	Action taken	No of copies with cost	Remarks
1.	Mr Umar Farooq Cheema 40 Jang Plaza, FazaleHaq Road, Blue Area, Islamabad Cell # 0300-5147069	4 August 2015	Information Request Under the Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013	Information Provided		
2.	Mr Mazhar Hussain Minhas Chief Information Commissioner Lahore	23 July 2015	Publicize Contact Details Of Public Information Officers (PIOs) Designated U/S 7 of the Punjab Transparency & Right to Information Act 2013	Direction Implemented		
3.	Mr Wali Haider, Secretary Pakistan Kisan Mazdoor Tehreek A-1 First Floor Block 2 Gulshan e Iqbal Karachi	3 September 2015	Resolution Seed Act 1976	Information Provided		
4.	Mr Shehzad Anwer House No 145, Street 37 F 10/I Islamabad	4 September 2015	RTI Request---- information about foreign tours of Punjab Assembly MPAs (371 Members) along with purpose and cost.	Information Provided		
5.	Muhammad Hasan Raza House No 148, Street No 03 Aziz Yaqoob Town Okara 0344-4440388	17 September 2015	Information Request Under Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013 Members absent from 2008 to 2013 and 2013 to 2015 and those who participate less in debates	Information Provided		
6.	Muhammad Hasan Raza House No 148, Street No 03 Aziz Yaqoob Town Okara 0344-4440388	17 September 2015	Information Request Under Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013 Expenditure on medicines from 2008 to 2013 and 2013 to 2015	Information Provided		

S/N	Applicant detail (Name & Address)	Ref/Letter No. with date	Subject/Information Sought	Action taken	No of copies with cost	Remarks
7.	Muhammad Hasan Raza House No 148, Street No 03 Aziz Yaqoob Town Okara 0344-4440388	17 September 2015	Information Request Under Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013 Foreign tours from 2008 to 2013 and 2013 to 2015	Information Provided		
8.	Muhammad Hasan Raza House No 148, Street No 03 Aziz Yaqoob Town Okara 0344-4440388	17 September 2015	Information Request Under Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013 Expenditure of Punjab Assembly from 2013 to 2015 and under which head	Information Provided		
9.	Muhammad Hasan Raza House No 148, Street No 03 Aziz Yaqoob Town Okara 0344-4440388	17 September 2015	Information Request Under Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013 Members who are Defaulters of Punjab Assembly and the amount	Information Provided		
10.	Muhammad Hasan Raza House No 148, Street No 03 Aziz Yaqoob Town Okara 0344-4440388	17 September 2015	Information Request Under Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013	Information Provided		
11.	Muhammad Hasan Raza House No 148, Street No 03 Aziz Yaqoob Town Okara 0344-4440388	17 September 2015	Information Request Under Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013 How many times Mr Shahbaz Sharif and Other Ministers participated in Session from 2008 to 2013 and 2013 to 2015	Information Provided		
12.	Muhammad Hasan Raza House No 148, Street No 03 Aziz Yaqoob Town Okara 0344-4440388	17 September 2015	Information Request Under Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013 How many Standing Committess formes from 2008 to 2013 and 2013 to 2015 and how many meetings and results of meetings	Information Provided		

S/N	Applicant detail (Name & Address)	Ref/Letter No. with date	Subject/Information Sought	Action taken	No of copies with cost	Remarks
13.	Muhammad Hasan Raza House No 148, Street No 03 Aziz Yaqoob Town Okara 0344-4440388	17 September 2015	Information Request Under Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013 How much salary and funds given to Mr Shahbaz Sharif and other Ministers from 2013 to 2015 and how many meetings and results of meetings	Information Provided		
14.	Mr Shehzad Anwer House No 145, Street 37 F 10/I Islamabad	16 September 2015	RTI Request---- Sitting wise attendance of Parliamentary Functionaries from 1 st sitting (June 01, 2013) to date (September 08, 2015)	Information Provided		
15.	Syed Rahat Qader Rizvi Provincial Coordinator Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI) 317- M Block Model Town Extension Lahore 0345-4194641	22 September 2015	Request to share information under the Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013	Information Provided		
16.	Muhammad Kabir s/o Munir Ahmad Big City 12/LG Plaza Liberty Roundabout Lahore. 0342-4646464 0364-4646464	19 October 2015	Application for issuance of attested copies of documents and information under Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013 Foreign Tours of employees of PAP Attendance record etc	Applicant asked to deposit money		The applicant did not deposit money.
17.	Muhammad Kabir s/o Munir Ahmad Big City 12/LG Plaza Liberty Roundabout Lahore. 0342-4646464 0364-4646464	20 October 2015	Application for issuance of attested copies of documents and information under Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013 Fuel lubricant expenditure Generator fuel receipts for year 2011-12	Applicant asked to deposit money		The applicant did not deposit money.

S/N	Applicant detail (Name & Address)	Ref/Letter No. with date	Subject/Information Sought	Action taken	No of copies with cost	Remarks
18.	Muhammad Kabir s/o Munir Ahmad Big City 12/LG Plaza Liberty Roundabout Lahore. 0342-4646464 0364-4646464	20 October 2015	Application for issuance of attested copies of documents and information under Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013 Fuel lubricant expenditure Generator fuel receipts for year 2012-13	Applicant asked to deposit money		The applicant did not deposit money.
19.	Muhammad Kabir s/o Munir Ahmad Big City 12/LG Plaza Liberty Roundabout Lahore. 0342-4646464 0364-4646464	20 October 2015	Application for issuance of attested copies of documents and information under Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013 Fuel lubricant expenditure Generator fuel receipts for year 2013-14	Applicant asked to deposit money		The applicant did not deposit money.
20.	Muhammad Kabir s/o Munir Ahmad Big City 12/LG Plaza Liberty Roundabout Lahore. 0342-4646464 0364-4646464	20 October 2015	Application for issuance of attested copies of documents and information under Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013 Fuel lubricant expenditure Generator fuel receipts for year 2014-15	Applicant asked to deposit money		The applicant did not deposit money.
21.	Muhammad Kabir s/o Munir Ahmad Big City 12/LG Plaza Liberty Roundabout Lahore. 0342-4646464 0364-4646464	26 October 2015	Application for issuance of attested copies of documents and information under Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013 Number of Vehicles Details of vehicles, details of generators, etc, from year 2000 to 2015	Applicant asked to deposit money		The applicant did not deposit money.
22.	Iftikhar Ahmad Chaudhry, Head Translator PAP, Lahore	27 October 2015	Provision of official documents under Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013	Information provided		
23.	Muhammad Hussain s/o Inayat Ali Shah Shamas Road Street No 23 Basti Bawa Safra Multan	29 October 2015	Salary Details of PP-194	Information Provided		

S/N	Applicant detail (Name & Address)	Ref/Letter No. with date	Subject/Information Sought	Action taken	No of copies with cost	Remarks
24.	Salahuddin Safdar H No 145, Street 37, F-10/1 Islamabad 0321-4842018	2 November 2015	Information on meetings of standing committees and other committees of 16 Provincial Assembly of the Punjab	Applicant asked to deposit money		The applicant did not deposit money.
25.	Muhammad Azhar Siddique Advocate Supreme Court Of Pakistan Ground Floor Almas Tower Begum Salma Tasaddaq Hussain Road Near E Plomer Building 26 The Mall Road Lahore	30 October 2015	Legal Notice- Information Request Under Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013- Request for Cancellation of metro Orange Line Project The notice was addressed to CM Punjab and Copy sent to Mr Speaker	No Action required; the matter was filed		
26.	Mr Mukhtar Ahmad Ali Information Commissioner 14-T MM Alam Road Gulberg- II Lahore	18 November 2015	Complaint Regarding Non-provision of Information under PT&RTI Act 2013	Reply was sent		
27.	Mr Asif Aqeel Sultan Street Bahar Colony # 1 Kot Lakhpat Lahore	24 November 2015	Official record relating to the life of Mr C.E. Gibbons MPA	No record available except speeches in House. Reply was sent		
28.	Mr Adnan Ashar Chak No 120 GB Tehsil Jaranwala District Faisalabad	Email 8 th December 2015 received as letter on 16 December 2015	PIO of PIC failed to provide Information	Since it was not related to Assembly Secretariat, no action was required.		
29.	Salahuddin Safdar H No 145, Street 37, F-10/1 Islamabad 0321-4842018	Nil	Information on meetings of standing committees and other committees of 16 Provincial Assembly of the Punjab.....Money Deposited	Information was provided		
30.	Mr Khalid Mahmood Deputy Secretary (Legis) Punjab Assembly, Lahore	11.12.2015	Soft Copy Not Available	No Action Required		

S/N	Applicant detail (Name & Address)	Ref/Letter No. with date	Subject/Information Sought	Action taken	No of copies with cost	Remarks
31.	Mr Amer Ejaz Centre for Peace & Development Initiatives, House No. 370 Street No 75 E 11/3, Islamabad Phone # 051-2375158	31 December 2015	Information Request Under the Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013 regarding minutes of the meetings of Standing Committee on Communication & Works	Information Provided		
32.	Abdul Razzaq Chishti Islamabad	14.01.2016	Action taken by departments in response to resolutions	Information provided		
33.	Muhammad Azhar Siddique Advocate Supreme Court Of Pakistan Ground Floor Almas Tower Begum Salma Tasaddaq Hussain Road Near E Plomer Building 26 The Mall Road Lahore	08 February 2016	Legal Notice- Information Request Under Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013- Request for Cancellation of metro Orange Line Project The notice was addressed to CM Punjab and Copy sent to Mr Speaker	No Action required- The matter was filed		
34.	Mr Amer Ejaz Centre for Peace & Development Initiatives House No. 370 Street No 75 E 11/3, Islamabad Phone # 051-2375158	8 February 2016	Information Request Under the Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013 regarding minutes of the meetings of Standing Committee on Communication & Works	Information was provided	630 photo copies cost Rs. 1260/-	
35.	Muhammad Uzair, Islamabad	8 Feb 2016	Attendance Public Functionaries	Reply given		
36.	Syed Kausar Abbas, Islamabad	8 Feb 2016	Attendance Record CM	Reply given		
37.	Javaid Ali Manwa Building No 1, Street No 5 (Off Jasmine Road) G 7/2 Islamabad	26 February 2016	RTI Request Details of Salary and Allowances withdrawn	Information Provided		

S/N	Applicant detail (Name & Address)	Ref/Letter No. with date	Subject/Information Sought	Action taken	No of copies with cost	Remarks
38	Ambreen Kanwal, Islamabad	2 March 2016	Information Request Under the Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013 Amount given as TA to members of Standing Committees	Information Provided	103 Copies Amount Rs. 206/-	
39.	Mr Muhammad Hasan Raza House No. 148 Street No 3, Aziz Yaqoob Town, Okara 0301-7344010 CNIC 35302-1675941-3	3 March 2016	Information Request Under the Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013 Defaulter MPAs, Residing in MPAs Hostel	Information provided.		
40.	Mr Muhammad Hasan Raza House No. 148 Street No 3, Aziz Yaqoob Town, Okara 0301-7344010 CNIC 35302-1675941-3	3 March 2016	Information Request Under the Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013 Health Facilities	Information Provided		
41.	Mr Muhammad Hasan Raza House No. 148 Street No 3, Aziz Yaqoob Town, Okara 0301-7344010 CNIC 35302-1675941-3	3 March 2016	Information Request Under the Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013 Expunged Words	Reply Sent		
42.	Mr Muhammad Hasan Raza House No. 148 Street No 3, Aziz Yaqoob Town, Okara 0301-7344010 CNIC 35302-1675941-3	3 March 2016	Information Request Under the Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013 No Question No Resolution No Motion	Information Provided		
43.	Mr Muhammad Hasan Raza House No. 148 Street No 3, Aziz Yaqoob Town, Okara 0301-7344010 CNIC 35302-1675941-3	3 March 2016	Information Request Under the Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013 How many Sessions? How much expenditure	Information Provided		

S/N	Applicant detail (Name & Address)	Ref/Letter No. with date	Subject/Information Sought	Action taken	No of copies with cost	Remarks
44.	Mr Muhammad Hasan Raza House No. 148 Street No 3, Aziz Yaqoob Town, Okara 0301-7344010 CNIC 35302-1675941-3	3 March 2016	Information Request Under the Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013 How many vehicles? Who used? Expenditure on repair petrol	Information Provided		
45.	Mr Tabish Mujahid 204, Salaar Centre Barkat Market Lahore	March 2016	Information Request Under the Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013	Reply Sent		
46.	Yasir Shaban Abbasi, Islamabad	9 th March 2016	Minutes of Meetings on Standing Committees on Local Govt & Health	Information Provided		
47.	Syed Kausar Abbas Office # 01 Sk Plaza, First Floor Morgah Road Near Hotel Royal Palace Rawalpindi	25 March	Information Request Under the Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013 regarding Perks Privileges of Special Assistants, Advisor, Parliamentary Secretaries	Reply Sent about proactive disclosure and a copy sent to cabinet division for provision of details of expenditures on salary etc to them		
48.	Salah ud Din Safdar Building No 1, Street No 5 (Off Jasmine Road) G 7/2 Islamabad	9 March 2016	Information regarding Bills passed in 3 rd parliamentary year	Information provided		
49.	Muhammad Hasan Raza House No 148, Street No 03 Aziz Yaqoob Town Okara 0344-4440388	17 April 2016	Information Request Under Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013	Applicant asked to deposit money		The applicant did not deposit money
50.	M Uzair Khan Plot No 1, Street No 5 Paani Wali Tanki G 7/2 Islamabad	3 rd May 2016	RTI Request- Response of concerned departments on resolutions under Rule 126 (1) & (2)	Information provided		
51.	Anum Naz Plot No 1, Street No 5 Paani Wali Tanki G 7/2 Islamabad	6 th May 2016	Privilege Motions and Adjournment Motions	Reply Sent		
52.	Yasir Shaban Plot No 1, Street No 5 Paani Wali Tanki G 7/2 Islamabad	4 May 2016		Reply Sent		

S/N	Applicant detail (Name & Address)	Ref/Letter No. with date	Subject/Information Sought	Action taken	No of copies with cost	Remarks
53.	Azhar Siddique 26 the Mall Road Lahore	10 May 2016	Legal Notice....How Govt Saved 215 Billion Rupees	Reply Sent		
54.	Mr Salah ud Din Building No. 1, Street No 5, (Off Jasmine Road), G-7/2 Islamabad.	16 May 2016	Information on the leaves Record of Members	Information provided		