



PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PUNJAB



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

July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017

(August 2017)

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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 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 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	7 th September 2016	IRADA
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 three emails up to 30 June 2017 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	11	Information provided
2	Request	Islamabad	10	Information provided
3	Request	Okara	07	Information provided
4	Request	Peshawar	01	Information provided
5	Request			Information provided
Total			29	

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 2017)	29	Information provided
2.	Total applications decided by relevant officer (up to 30 June 2017)	29	
3.	Total applications accepted where requested information was provided (up to 30 June 2017)	29	
4.	Total applications rejected (up to 30 June 2017)	Nil	
5.	Applications pending decision (on 30 June 2017)	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 2017)	Nil	
7.	Total applications received for internal review which were decided (up to 30 June 2017)	Nil	
8.	Total applications for internal review where requested information was provided (up to 30 June 2017)	Nil	
9.	Total applications for internal review where access to information was denied (up to 30 June 2017)	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 2017)	Nil	
11.	Applications for internal review pending decision (on 30 June 2017)	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**STATEMENT OF THE APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AND DISPOSED OF UNDER THE
PUNJAB TRANSPARENCY AND RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT 2013 (XXV OF 2013)
DURING 1st July 2016 TO 30 JUNE 2017**

S/N	Applicant detail (Name & Address)	Ref/Letter No. with date	Subject/Information Sought	Action taken	No of copies with cost	Remarks
1.	Mr Mohammad Azhar Siddique Advocate Supreme Court of Pakistan. 26-The Mall Road Lahore	13.07.2016	Provision of Information Under the Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013, Freedom of Information Ordinance 2002 and Article 19-A of the Constitution	CC Copy. PUC was filed. No Information was sought from the Assembly Secretariat		
2.	Mr Mohammad Azhar Siddique Advocate Supreme Court of Pakistan. 26-The Mall Road Lahore	23.07.2016	Complaint to Chief Information Commissioner.....Provision of Information Under Article 19-A of the Constitution Read With the Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013, Regarding Orange Line Train Project	CC Copy. PUC was filed. No Information was sought from the Assembly Secretariat		
3.	Mr Javed Ali Manwa Building No 1, Street No 5 (Off Jasmine Road), G7/2 Islamabad.	24.8.2016	Attendance CM	Reply sent on 29.8.16		
4.	Mr Muhammad Rashid Ch. Building No 1, Street No 5 (Off Jasmine Road), G7/2 Islamabad.	23.8.2016	Consolidated list (Notices) Private Member Bills	Information provided on 30.8.16		

S/N	Applicant detail (Name & Address)	Ref/Letter No. with date	Subject/Information Sought	Action taken	No of copies with cost	Remarks
5.	Mr Ahsan Riaz Fatyana, MPA H No 327 G-III Johar Town-II Lahore	29.8.2016	Rooms in Pipal House MPAs Hostel etc. and other residential matters	Information provided on 27.9.2016		
6.	Email from Mr Sarmad Ali Advocate High Court LLB (HONS) (UK), LLM (UK) Columnist for Dailytimes - Pakistan Honorary Advisor to Ombudsman Punjab	15.09.2016	Information About Rs 60 Million Grant Issued to Law College Punjab University	Reply Sent on 16.9.2016		
7.	Mr Zahid Abdullah H. No. 370, St. No 75, E-11/3 Islamabad	19.9.2016	Information Under the Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013 Medical Expenses claimed by MPAs during financial year 2015-16	Information provided on 21.9.2016		
8.	Mr Salah ud Din Safdar Building No 1, Street No 5 (Off Jasmine Road), G7/2 Islamabad.	26.9.2016	Information request under the Right to Information Law	Information provided on 22.10.2016		
9.	Mr Muhammad Ibrahim Bhatti Geological Engineering	31.10.2016	Application for legal proceedings for provision of information under	No action required as it was copy to		

S/N	Applicant detail (Name & Address)	Ref/Letter No. with date	Subject/Information Sought	Action taken	No of copies with cost	Remarks
	Department U E T Lahore		RTI Act 2013	Mr Speaker		
10.	Mr Uzair Khan Niazi House No 7 E Street 18 G-6/2 Islamabad	18.10.2016	RTI request Session wise Expenses incurred on current Assembly proceedings from 1 st session to 23 rd session	Information provided on 10.11.2016		
11.	Mr Rashid Khan House No 69 Street 9 L 1 Phase 3 Hayatabad Peshawar	Received on 18.10.2016	Accreditation provided to citizens	Information provided on 10.11.2016 but letter was returned due to wrong address. Informed on telephone but no representative came till 30.11.2016		
12.	Mr Farooq Hamza Huse No 3 Muhammad Din Street Bukhari Market Rehmanpura Lahore	17.10.2016 but received in Assembly Secretariat on 03.11.2016	No subject....Sought information about medical expenses and foreign tours of Mr Speaker Deputy Speaker Ministers and security food expenses	Information provided on 23.11.2016		
13.	Ms Wajahat Batool House No 58/44 Street 04, Block AA, Sector D Bahria Town Lahore	17.10.2016	Privileges of Parliamentary Secretaries	Information provided on 04.11.2016		
14.	Ms Samia Arif House No 58/44 Street 04, Block AA, Sector D Bahria	17.10.2016	Rejected Private Members' Bills	Information provided on 04.11.2016		

S/N	Applicant detail (Name & Address)	Ref/Letter No. with date	Subject/Information Sought	Action taken	No of copies with cost	Remarks
	Town Lahore					
15.	Mr Farhan Shahzad Advocate High Court First Floor Kashif Chambers 6-Lodge Road Old Anarkali Lahore	10.11.2016	Information/Documents in terms of rights provided to the citizens under Article 19-A of the constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Freedom of Information Ordinance 2002	Information provided on 30.11.2016		
16.	Yasir Shaban Abbasi Plot No 1 Street No 5 Near Tank Stop Class III Market G 7/2 Islamabad 0312-5443094 051-8466232	24.11.2016	Information About Standing Committees of the Punjab Assembly During 1 st 2 nd 3 rd and 4 th Parliamentary Year (June 2013 to August 2016)	Information provided on 15.12.2016	74 Copies Rupees 148/-	
17.	Muhammad Hasan Raza House No 148 Street No 3 Aziz Yaqoob Town Okara City 03017344010	22.11.2016	Information request under the Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013 About Defaulter Members living in hostels and people living with them	Information provided on 15.12.2016		
18.	Muhammad Hasan Raza House No 148 Street No 3 Aziz Yaqoob Town Okara City 03017344010	22.11.2016	Information request under the Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013 Total Vehicles in Assembly Secretariat who used them and expenditure on petrol and repair	Information provided on 15.12.2016		
19.	Muhammad Hasan Raza House No 148 Street No 3 Aziz	22.11.2016	Information request under the Punjab Transparency and Right to	Informed telephonically to		

S/N	Applicant detail (Name & Address)	Ref/Letter No. with date	Subject/Information Sought	Action taken	No of copies with cost	Remarks
	Yaqoob Town Okara City 03017344010		Information Act 2013 Answers of S&GAD laid on the table of the House regarding session held on 14.4.2016	collect information but he never came to collect information		
20.	Muhammad Hasan Raza House No 148 Street No 3 Aziz Yaqoob Town Okara City 03017344010	22.11.2016	Information request under the Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013 Which members did not take part in proceedings	Informed telephonically to collect information but he never came to collect information		
21.	Muhammad Hasan Raza House No 148 Street No 3 Aziz Yaqoob Town Okara City 03017344010	22.11.2016	Information request under the Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013 Total Number of sessions held since 2013 and expenditure incurred thereon and Funds given to members.	Informed telephonically to collect information but he never came to collect information		
22.	Muhammad Hasan Raza House No 148 Street No 3 Aziz Yaqoob Town Okara City 03017344010	22.11.2016	Information request under the Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013 Health facilities given to members in Punjab Assembly since 2013	Informed telephonically to collect information but he never came to collect information		
23.	Muhammad Hasan Raza House No 148 Street No 3 Aziz Yaqoob Town Okara City	22.11.2016	Information request under the Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013	Informed telephonically to collect information		

S/N	Applicant detail (Name & Address)	Ref/Letter No. with date	Subject/Information Sought	Action taken	No of copies with cost	Remarks
	03017344010			but he never came to collect information		
24.	Murtaza Hashim Murtazahashim.hcc@gmail.com	14.12.2016	Recruitment of Assistant Secretary	Information provided on 19.12.2016 through email		
25.	Javaid Ali Manwa Building No 1 Street 5 (Off Jasmine Road) G 7/2 Islamabad 0308-5559305	13.04.2017	Information regarding Standing Committee on Human Rights	Information provided on 22.04.2017		
26.	Muhammad Arslan Awan 67 Hajveri Complex 2 Mozang Road Lahore 03334546746	19.04.2017	Rules About DEOs seniority list notifications working paper minutes etc	Information provided on 28.04.2017		
27.	Mukhtar Ahmad Ali Chief Information Commissioner 14-T Gulberg II Lahore	20.04 2017	Questionnaire About PIOs	Information provided on 02.05.2017		
28.	Mukhtar Ahmad Ali Chief Information Commissioner 14-T Gulberg II Lahore	06.04.2017	Guidelines for Designation of PIOs	Information provided on 28.04.2017		
29.	Fakhar Durrani 40 Jang Plaza Fazl e Haq Road Blue Area Islamabad	25.04.2017	Information request under the Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013	Information provided on 04.05.2017		

S/N	Applicant detail (Name & Address)	Ref/Letter No. with date	Subject/Information Sought	Action taken	No of copies with cost	Remarks
	0347-5035625		Health facilities of members and expenditure incurred thereon			
30.	Zahid Abdullah Coordinator CRTI Secretariat 601 Abu Dhabi Towers Block B 6 th Floor F-II Markaz 051-8312794 Islamabad	19.04.2017	RTI Champions Award for Public Bodies	Information provided on 19.05.2017		
31.	Javaid Ali Manwa Building No 1 Street 5 (Off Jasmine Road) G 7/2 Islamabad 0308-5559305	10.05.2017	Information About SDGS Task Force	Information provided on 22.05.2017		
32.	Murtaza Hashim Received EMail murtazahashim.hcc@gmail.com Cell# 0323-7102171	6 th March 2017	Information Under RTI Act 2013 Information About Asstt Secretary PAP	Information Provided through email		