

**PUNJAB INFORMATION COMMISSION  
LAHORE**

File No. AD(A&C)PIC 2-5/15

Mr. Muhammad Zafar Zakeer Goraya, Garhi Wahab, Tehsil Pindi Bhattian,  
Hafizabad.

(the complainant)

Vs.

District Coordination Officer (DCO), Hafizabad.

(the respondent)

**ORDER:**

1. The Complainant submitted a complaint to the Commission on 26/03/2015 alleging that the Respondent had not provided him the requested information within the time period specified in section 10(7) of the Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013. He also sent several reminders to the Respondent and the Commission regarding his information request/complaint. The information sought by the Complainant, through his application included, *inter alia*, number/ types of vehicles, details of repair of vehicles and related expenses, medical allowance paid to employees, and expenses incurred on stationary items etc.

2. Through a letter dated 27/03/2015, the Commission directed the Respondent to "immediately provide the requested information to the complainant, if it is not exempt u/s 13 of the Act; and explain the reasons, including rebuttal if any, of alleged non-response or delay in deciding the matter." No response was received and, therefore, the Commission issued a reminder on 05/08/2015. Yet again, no response was received and, as a result, the Commission had to issue a notice for hearing on 6/01/2016. The hearing was held on 18/01/2016, which was attended by Mr. Shahid Ismail, District Officer (Coordination)/ designated PIO. The PIO expressed doubts about the intentions of the complainant, and stated that the requested record is voluminous, as it covers a long period. He further stated that it is hard to collect the requested record, especially the older one, some of which relates to pre-devolution period. The Commission, however, emphasized that requested information should be provided unless it is exempt from disclosure u/s 13 of the Act. It was noted that the Respondent had taken a long time in responding to the Commission, and that the requested information should have easily been traced and compiled during this period. The Commission informed the PIO that, in case of requests involving voluminous records,

a public body can charge photocopying costs in accordance with the Schedule of Costs notified by the Commission.

3. The complaint is allowed. It is directed that all the requested information should be provided to the complainant latest by 28/01/2016 under intimation to the Commission. It is further directed that the Respondent and the PIO must take immediate steps to ensure full compliance with, *inter alia*, section 4, 7, 8 and 10 of the Act. In particular, the Respondent and the PIO must take appropriate initiatives for automation of records to facilitate easy retrieval and public access to information. A copy of this Order may be sent to the complainant as well.

Announced on:  
18/01/2016

**(Mukhtar Ahmad Ali)**  
Information Commissioner

**(Mazhar Hussain Minhas)**  
Chief Information Commissioner

**(Ahmad Raza Tahir)**  
Information Commissioner