ORDER SHEET
THE PUNJAB INFORMATION COMMISSION
64-Nursery Lane, Near China Chowk, Lahore, Punjab.

Appeal No.25-1-2023-9
Syed Raza Ali Shah
VS
PIO of C&W department Punjab

Subject: **RTI Complaint (Appeal) Regarding Non-Provision of Public Information under the Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013**

20.02.2023 This RTI Complaint was filed for non-disclosure of instructions issued and actions taken to implement "Accessibility Code of Pakistan 2006".

Highway Department

(i) Mr. Ashfaq Hussain Administrative Officer of Highway Department is present on behalf of Mr. Khawer Zaman Chief Engineer (Central Zone) Punjab.
(ii) Mr. Farooq Ahmad Assistant Highway Department is present on behalf of Mr. Naveed Bhatti CE (South Zone) Punjab.
(iii) Mr. Nasrullah Director/PIO Highway Department is present on behalf of Mr. Malik Muhammad Riaz CE (North) Punjab.

Building Department

(i) Mr. Sajjad Hussain AD (Admn) is present on behalf of Mr. Tariq Malghani CE (South) Building Department Punjab.
(ii) Mr. Abdul Ghafoor DD/PIO is present on behalf of Mr. Shehzad Hussain CE (North) Building Department Punjab.
(iii) Mr. Tayyab Khan Junior Clerk is present on behalf of Mr. Zubair Latif CE (Central Zone) Building Department Punjab.

2. All above-mentioned officers/officials have submitted a brief replies which do not meet each point of requisite information i.e. (i) disclosure of instructions/directives/orders issued so far (ii) disclosure of list of projects where the requirements of Accessibility Code of Pakistan 2006 were followed and (iii) disclosure of Audit of the completed projects from the perspective of "Accessibility Code of Pakistan 2006".

3. The Accessibility Code of Pakistan 2006 was a significant legislation providing instructions to construct/design public buildings & pavements

/footpath keeping in view the requirements of citizens with physical disabilities. It is obviously salutary code of instructions which takes care of fundamental human rights of disabled persons. The complainant of this case sought disclosure of following information;

i. Disclosure of instructions/directives/orders so far issued,
ii. Disclosure of list of projects where the requirements of Accessibility Code of Pakistan 2006 were followed and
iii. Disclosure of audit of the complainant project from the perspective of "Accessibility Code of Pakistan 2006.

4. The spirit of this RTI Complaint is obviously to sensitize the top-brass of building and highway department to implement the instructions in all public building and footpaths/public pavements. It is unfortunate that initially Chief PIO of the office of C&W department failed to provide the requisite information to complainant within 14 working days in violation of his statutory obligation. Later on the direction of Commission PIO & C&W Department directed all Chief Engineers of Building & Highway Department but all of them submitted a brief reply beating about the bush.

5. Secretary C&W Department Punjab being HOD is directed to ensure through his designated PIO that replies of all Chief Engineers of Building & Highway Department and Chief Architect on all 3 points mentioned above, within 7 working days failing which the Commission shall consider the award of penalty u/s 15 of RTI Act 2013 to delinquent officers.

6. To come up for submission of compliance report on 06.03.2023 at 11:30 AM.

(Mahboob Qadir Shah)
Chief Information Commissioner

(Shaukat Ali)
Information Commissioner

(Dr. Arif Mushtaq Ch)
Information Commissioner