ORDER SHEET
PUNJAB INFORMATION COMMISSION

1-RTI Complaint No: 1-419-5/2021
2-RTI Complaint No: 1-420-5/2021

Dr. Naveed Ahmed (Complainant)
VS
Punjab University, Lahore (Respondent)

Subject: **RTI COMPLAINT UNDER RULE-9 OF THE PUNJAB TRANSPARENCY AND RIGHT TO INFORMATION RULES, 2014.**

Order

13.07.2021 The Appellant is present. None present on behalf of respondent Public Body. This order disposes of both above mentioned RTI Complaints both filed by Dr. Naveed Ahmed against the same public body i.e. Punjab University, involving same PIO namely Ahmed Islam Deputy Registrar/PIO.

2. The Appellant is present but PIO has not bothered to personally appear. However a letter dated 08.06.2021 has been received from PIO regarding RTI Complaint at Sr.No.1 and only a whatsapp message is received to an official of the Commission regarding RTI Complaint at Sr. No. 2 that the information had been dispatched to the complainant. Both matters are separately discussed and decided below;

RTI Complaint No. 1-419-5/2021

3. This RTI Complaint deals with the information relaing to official accommodations of University of Punjab. The letter No. D/110/PIO dated 08.06.2021 issued by PIO disclosing partial information contains an odd responsefor regarding first four queries in following words:

"As such no list as required is available, however, you are requested to point out the name so that the informationmay be provided"

4. The above noted slip-shod response reflects non-seriousness and lack of professionalism on the part of PIO. The PIO was under obligation to make a comprehensive response disclosing the status of

each occupation , including the details of rent collection and the identity of each occupant (whether serving or retired) there was not justification to withhold he kind of information which University as a public body is under obligation to pro-actively disclose through web-site.

5. PIO has responsed to only fifth question disclosing the name and MOU under which a foreigner is occupying one house but again particulars of the house have not been disclosed which adds to the impression of non seriousness conduct of RTI business.

RTI Complaint No. 1-420-5/2021

6. It is brought to my notice that PIO did forward the requisite information at the given address of Complainant followed by only a whatsapp message to one of the official of PIC to said effect. Complainant has rightly pointed out that earlier PIO has claimed exemption vide his letter dated 25.05.2021 but in response to the Commission's order dated 29.06.2021 he took a big U-turn by providing complete record of the minutes of syndicate meeting including the parts which were even not sought by the Complainant. It again reflects non-seriousness of PIO who initially took a stance that the information was exempted but later provided without any resistance but his conduct resulted into considerable loss of time and energy to make disclosure of validly shareable public information.

7. The overall impact of the conduct of PIO is that he lacks professionalism and regard for fundamental right to information of citizens and also for the orders of Commission. I exercised maximum leniency while conducting both RTI Complaints but I very consciencly find that PIO must be awarded penalty for his inefficient and irresponsible conduct of RTI business causing unnecessary delay also adding hassel for the complainant and Commission.

8. The cumulative effect of non-compliance of order in respect of RTI complaint No. 1 as observed in foregoing para no.4 & 5 he is awarded a penalty of Rs. 25,000/- which may be deducted from his salary under intimation to this Commission. PIO shall personally appear before Commission on 28.07.2021 with complete information relating to RTI Complaint at Sr. No.1 on 28.07.2021 failing which he will be considered for award of further penalty.

9. A copy of this order be served upon Vice Chancellor as well as Registrar University of Punjab University Lahore for their active intervention to make the conduct of RTI business efficient and to ensure the compliance of this order.

10. To come up on 28.07.2021 at 10 am for personal appearance of PIO.

(Mahboob Qadir Shah)
Chief Information Commissioner