



TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL - PAKISTAN

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March 19, 2024,

TL2024/0319/4A

Mr. Najam Ahmed Shah,
Secretary,
Forest and Wildlife Department
Government of Sindh
Shahbaz Building Block-A, Thandi Sarak,
Hyderabad, Sindh.

Subject: Uploading of Information about PIOs on the website of Forest and Wildlife Department, Government of Sindh as per Section 6(1)-m of Sindh Transparency and RTI Act 2016

Dear Sir,

Transparency International Pakistan would like to bring to your attention the lack of information regarding a designated Public Information Officer (PIO) in accordance with the Sindh Transparency and Right to Information Act 2016 on the department's website: www.sindhforests.gov.pk accessed on March 19, 2024.

Section 6(1) clause 'm' - Proactive Disclosure, Sindh Transparency and RTI Act 2016 is quoted below for your reference,

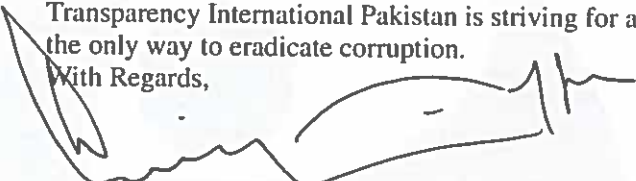
"a public body shall proactively disclose and publish information which also includes (m): complete particulars of its public information officers"

TI Pakistan acknowledges the fact that Access to Information laws are an important step towards transparency and social accountability. TI Pakistan has been striving for the enactment and implementation of RTI laws in Pakistan since 2002 so that the citizens are able to exercise their right to information.

Transparency International Pakistan requests the Secretary, Forest and Wildlife Department to issue directives for the compliance with Section 6(1) clause 'm' Sindh RTI Act 2016 and uploading the mandatory information including the particulars of public information officer (PIO) on the department's website.

Transparency International Pakistan is striving for across-the-board application of Rule of Law, which is the only way to eradicate corruption.

With Regards,


Advocate Daniyal Muzaffar
Trustee/Legal Advisor
Transparency International Pakistan

Copies forwarded for the information with request to take action under their mandate to:

1. Chief Minister, Govt of Sindh, Karachi
2. Chief Secretary, Govt of Sindh, Karachi
3. Minister, Forest and Wildlife Department, Govt of Sindh, Karachi
4. Chief Information Commissioner, Sindh Information Commission, Karachi
5. Registrar, Sindh High Court, Karachi



Note:

This is to clarify that Transparency International Pakistan is not a complainant, it acts as a whistleblower and operate under Article 19-A, of the Constitution of Pakistan which gives the right to public to know how government is being run by public officers. Article 19-A makes the right to access of information pertaining to a public authority a fundamental right, and a three member bench in case of Mukhtar Ahmad Ali vs the Registrar, Supreme Court of Pakistan, Islamabad, headed by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa in the landmark judgment on 16 October 2023, in CP No. 3532/2023, has declared that

“What previously may have been on a need-to-know basis Article 19A of the Constitution has transformed it to a right-to-know, and the Access to information is no longer a discretion granted through occasional benevolence, but is now a fundamental right available with every Pakistani which right may be invoked under Article 19A of the Constitution”